2022 NCCEP/GEAR UP
Annual Conference
July 17-20 | Washington, DC

Atlas of Opportunity
Navigating What's Next

NCCEP
# NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference

**Join us in Washington, DC for the NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference from July 17-20, 2022!**

For additional information regarding the conference, visit NCCEP’s website at [www.edpartnerships.org](http://www.edpartnerships.org)

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*All times are Eastern Time. The schedule will be updated as needed.*

*5/12/2022*
Sunday | July 17

3:00 pm – 7:00 pm  Conference Registration & Information Booth Open
Terrace Foyer East

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm  Pre-Conference

Pre-Conference | Navigating College Access Today: An Orientation to GEAR UP
Jefferson

Are you new to the GEAR UP community? This is the session for you! No matter your role, gain a grounding of the purpose, history, and structure of GEAR UP at the national, state, and local levels. We will help you connect the dots between all of the diverse programs, roles, and unique partnership structures and models that power the GEAR UP movement and contribute to its success. Stories from the field will be featured throughout this session to help you connect the big picture to the impact GEAR UP is making in communities across the country. This session is for anyone new to the GEAR UP community, regardless of role.

Learning Objectives:
- Develop an understanding of the need of college access interventions in communities across the country.
- Learn more about the core tenets of GEAR UP and how GEAR UP is implemented.
- Understand how GEAR UP is administered from a national level to your local communities.

Presenters:
Emily Crawford, Director of Government Relations, NCCEP
Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, NCCEP
LaTasha Collins, GEAR UP Pre-Collegiate Advisor, Colorado GEAR UP

Monday | July 18th

7:00 am – 5:00 pm  Conference Registration & Information Booth Open
Terrace Foyer East

7:30 am – 8:45 am  Networking Breakfast
International Ballroom

9:00 am – 10:15 am  Opening Ceremony and Roll Call of the GEAR UP States
International Ballroom

Speakers:
Alex Chough, President, NCCEP
Guiseppe “Seppy” Basili, Chair of the NCCEP Board, Executive Director, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
Michelle Cooper, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education
Angela Jackson, Former NCCEP Board Member, Associate Director & GEAR UP Hawai‘i Project Director, Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education, University of Hawai‘i
Traci Aucoin, Former NCCEP Board Member, GEAR UP Project Director, Lafayette Parish School System

Join us as we kick off the 2022 NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference! In this energizing kickoff plenary, you’ll hear from those within the GEAR UP community about all the work that has been happening since we last met in-person.

You’ll also have a chance to represent your state! Come ready to cheer, jump around, and celebrate as we begin two-and-a-half days of learning together.

10:15 am – 10:45 am Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Hall
Columbia

10:45 am – 12:00 pm Monday Morning Concurrent Sessions | Block 1

1. Achieving STEM: An In-House Model to Implementation and Sustainability
Cardozo
This hands-on, interactive session allows participants to experience the full process of establishing effective educational partnerships to foster STEM development and engagement in their own GEAR UP network. Providing a unique, in-house approach of data analysis and relationship development, this model cultivates a three-fold understanding of awareness and need, systematic implementation, and empowered sustainability for the future. Through hands-on learning and 21st century rooted instructional strategies, partnerships are nurtured to ensure accessibility and achievement for all stakeholders.

Learning Objectives:
- Understand how to develop a service network that is cross-curricular and accessible to all internal and external stakeholders.
- Experience the implementation of STEM services and their impact on GEAR UP partners and stakeholders.
- Learn how to empower their GEAR UP networks through data and resources to create self-sustaining community partnerships and services.

Presenters:
Doug Thompson, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instructional Design, Appalachian State University, Appalachian GEAR UP
Rachel Nave-Lewis, Academic Innovation Specialist, Appalachian State University, Appalachian GEAR UP
Jessica Stockham, Academic Innovation Specialist, Appalachian State University, Appalachian GEAR UP

2. Boost GEAR UP Students’ ACT and SAT Scores
Shaw
Only 11% of low-income students graduate high school with a college-ready ACT or SAT score. These students end up under-matched to colleges or, worse, sloughing through dozens of hours of remedial coursework in post-secondary institutions. Even high school students equipped with the academic foundation needed to score well on these college admission tests often lack familiarity with the
structure and style of those exams. As a result, many students with adequate fundamentals still under perform relative to their scholastic abilities. This session will cover various ways to guarantee that your students are exposed to the particulars on both the SAT and ACT before taking the test. Speakers will explain techniques designed to keep students from being intimidated by upper-level content and will reveal strategies proven to build test-taking confidence. This engaging presentation is for attendees looking to improve their GEAR UP students’ performance on the ACT and/or SAT.

Learning Objectives:
- Explore and discuss with other GEAR UP professionals the barriers low-income students encounter on the ACT and/or SAT.
- Identify strategies to assist GEAR UP students in becoming more confident and successful test-takers.
- Identify and discuss content areas that appear most frequently on the ACT and SAT and learn how to incorporate them into test preparation.

Presenters:
Kristin Seay, Project Director, Central Carolina Consortium GEAR UP Project
Traci Aucoin, Project Director, Lafayette Parish School System GEAR UP
Craig Gehring, Founder and CEO, Mastery Prep

3. Building Equitable Student Support Services in a Post-Pandemic World

Georgetown

What does equitable student support mean to you? How has your definition or perception of services changed since the pandemic? In this session, we come together and go through an interactive group activity with the founders of Student Success Agency to assess and dissect the pivots we have had to make to adjust to the new normal. For the last decade, Student Success Agency has partnered with large and small grants across the country to provide innovative approaches and a fresh perspective to meeting students where they are. The goal of this session is to allow us to slow down and take an honest look at our changes in approach and assess if the adaptations we have made to our plans were temporary fixes or long-term solutions to meet the needs of our students. You will leave this session inspired, filled with ideas for the next school year, and motivated to build solutions that meet the moment.

Learning Objectives:
- Identify areas of growth after completing Student Success Agency’s equity activity and have a deeper understanding of their three-tier assessment to building an equitable support system: (1) access to resources (2) availability to services (3) avenues to opportunity.
- Ignite your creativity from the sparks and aha moments experienced throughout the session and create an aspirational plan that challenges existing barriers in your grant.
- Integrate solutions shared by session speakers and audience members that make student support more inclusive among your community.

Presenters:
Efrin Carrion, Co-Founder & CEO, Student Success Agency
Michael Benko, Co-Founder & COO, Student Success Agency

4. Building Students’ Identity for Math and Science through Culturally Relevant Teaching

Gunston

Students have the potential to make transformational changes using math and science in their communities and future careers. For this to happen, students need empowering and engaging educative experiences, resulting from justice-based teaching (e.g., culturally relevant teaching), to develop their identity and agency. GEAR UP programs can play a pivotal role in students’ preparation so that students
feel confident and empowered in their future academic courses, such as chemistry and physics. In this interactive workshop, you will learn about designing programming and curricula that will prepare students with the requisite skills in math and science through culturally relevant teaching.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn how to apply the theoretical underpinnings of culturally relevant teaching (academic success, cultural competence, and critical consciousness) to create experiences that empower, engage, and build students’ identities for math and science.
- Identify how GEAR UP programs can prepare students for their future academic courses, such as chemistry and physics, by designing and implementing programing around the advanced-level topics students will see in those courses.
- Articulate and design a plan to prepare students for their future academic courses with programing via culturally relevant teaching.

**Presenters:**
Nicholas Bell, Instructor and Researcher, BRAIN STEM
Aimee Castillo-Griffin, GEAR UP Facilitator, Region 12 GEAR UP Program

5. **CollegeforTN: You Can Get There from Here**
*Fairchild*

CollegeforTN.org, Tennessee’s free college and career preparation website, aims to provide all Tennesseans with the information they need to make informed college and career decisions. In 2021, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission relaunched CollegeforTN.org with new tools and resources to help students research and organize their college, career, and financial aid search. Join us as we share information about the website development and implementation processes, how the site will be used to further the mission of GEAR UP TN, and how others can build similar resources within their local context.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Hear about how the GEAR UP TN team developed and implemented this new online resource, which is designed to help students and families across the state of Tennessee.
- Learn about the key features and tools available on CollegeforTN.org and leave with an understanding of the free resources and data sources that are available to build a similar resource.
- Participate in discussion on how these resources have helped TN students and families and how you can use these resources to help you excel in your own GEAR UP work.

**Presenters:**
Jessie Greene, Coordinator of College Access Communications, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, GEAR UP TN
Troy Grant, Senior Director of College Access, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, GEAR UP TN

6. **Connecting the Dots and Rolling Up the Gaps: One Episode at a Time – Pineville Podcast**
*Van Ness*

In the United States, podcasts have become a popular form of entertainment and information. GEAR UP SOAR students will discuss their student-led podcast that provides students, families, and community information regarding GEAR UP events, Career Readiness, Financial Literacy, STEM, and Citizenship. This presentation will provide steps to create a successful, student-led podcast. You’ll learn how our students determine topics, identify guests, and acquire the necessary equipment. Students will share their experience of empowerment through expressed ideas and connecting with the real world, one episode at a time. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a podcast recording!

**Learning Objectives:**
- Develop student voice by transforming complex ideas into student stories and creative expressions.
- Engage and create inclusion for all students, families, and community members.
- Articulate a step-by-step guide on establishing a successful student-led podcast and increasing leadership and confidence development.

Presenters:
Missy Spangler, Student Leadership Coordinator, Partners for Education, Berea College - GEAR UP SOAR
Jon North, College and Career Navigator, GEAR UP SOAR – Pineville Independent

7. Crafting Your Own Elevator Pitch
Tenleytown East
You have 30 seconds to describe your GEAR UP program to a group of energetic seventh graders – are you prepared? Learn how the Vermont State GEAR UP team tackled the challenge to communicate the spirit of our unique program clearly and inclusively. Through individual reflection, facilitated discussion and small group work, leave this session with the tools to facilitate this process with your own team.

Learning Objectives:
- Experience being lead through the process of creating a GEAR UP elevator pitch.
- Learn relevant marketing concepts and inclusive language communication practices.
- Come away with the resources and skills necessary to facilitate your own elevator pitch workshop.

Presenters:
Adriana Eldred, Outreach and Communications Specialist, VSAC GEAR UP GUIDE Program
Jessi Krause Herron, GEAR UP Outreach Counselor, VSAC GEAR UP

8. Daring Leadership: Serving Wholeheartedly in Educational Settings
Kalorama
More than ever, the state of education requires us all to be examples of daring leaders. But what exactly is daring leadership and what does it look like in practice? In this session, panelists from two GEAR UP partnership grants in Region One ESC will speak to how they have wholeheartedly embraced daring leadership in service of students, families, and educators to create a culture of belonging, empathy, and vulnerability in each of their respective school systems. Attendees will be inspired by the stories shared by each panelist and leave with a working definition of what it means to be a daring leader that connects with and empowers everyone they serve.

Learning Objectives:
- Identify what daring leadership is and how it can be implemented when serving various audiences (students, families, educators, and community members).
- Formulate opportunities to practice and integrate daring leadership in their institutions to provide quality services for all.
- Recognize opportunities to inspire and connect with others through vulnerable (daring) leadership.

Presenters:
Nicole Saenz, Program Assistant, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set!
Monica Kaufmann, Principal, Nikki Rowe High School, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set!
Sandra Nieto, Ed.D., Principal, Raymondville Early College High School, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Now-Career Connected!
Rudy Ramirez, Principal, San Benito High School, Region One ESC: College Ready, Career Set!
9. Exploration Lab: What Do Middle School Students Need? The Middle School Mystery
   International Terrace

We know that it’s critical to start college and career readiness conversations in middle school. But 13-year-olds are a notoriously tough audience. Come share your challenges in working with middle school students and brainstorm developmentally appropriate content and activities that will resonate with this next generation.

What is an Exploration Lab? Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief “Lab Report” after the conference.

Who should attend? Anyone who works or have worked directly with middle school students and wants to share their experiences and learn from others.

What should I expect? Come ready to participate! Exploration Labs are highly interactive. Facilitators will guide the group through conversations and activities to uncover solutions and new ideas.

Learning Objectives:
- Crowdsource solutions and problem-solve for common challenges.
- Identify developmentally appropriate content and activities for middle school students.

Presenters:
Dana Beck, Director of Practice, NCCEP
Karla De Luna, Education Specialist, Region One Education Service Center

10. How to Leverage Community Support for Educating Parents
    Jefferson West

How do you get parents to think of a college-going or skilled workforce culture if they do not experience it themselves? Many of our Vanguard parents dream of their children attending college or a university of their choice. They support their child and pray that the school will provide the tools to make them college-bound or skilled workers for the workforce. As a Vanguard GEAR UP project, our mission is to support those dreams, and we took it a step further by providing college-going and skilled workforce opportunities to our parents. How? By utilizing resources that are available through community partners.

Learning Objectives:
- Explain and discuss parental engagement initiatives launched to help increase parental participation.
- Describe a framework for fostering a culture of confidence and success.
- Discuss postsecondary opportunities for parents and the community.

Presenters:
Barbara Gonzales, Ed.D., GEAR UP Director, Vanguard Academy Public Charter Schools, College Ready-SET-ARTs GEAR UP

11. Increasing Student Success and Sustaining Program Impact: Creating a Coaching Model for GEAR UP Educators
    Lincoln West

Classroom teachers comprise the powerful group of individuals that spends the most time with GEAR UP students and serve as positive influencers. In this interactive session, participants will engage with UTRGV GEAR UP academic coaches and current GEAR UP educators to learn about the program’s unique coaching model approach and educator initiatives. Small-group collaboration and reflection activities will result in educator engagement and development plans. Participants will receive coaching model integration guiding documents and an implementation strategies toolkit for developing GEAR UP
classroom teacher practice to increase student high school graduation rates and postsecondary matriculation now and into the future.

Learning Objectives:
- Gain an understanding of academic content coaching model integration into GEAR UP programs.
- Engage with practicing GEAR UP professionals to identify opportunities for developing effective educator programming and external partnerships using guiding documents.
- Develop during small-group interactive activities coaching model implementation plans based on program capacity and targets.

Presenters:
Rohny Escareno, GEAR UP Math Academic Content Coach, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, GEAR UP College in ACTion!
Diana Carcano, GEAR UP Academic Content Coach for English Language Arts, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley GEAR UP, GEAR UP College in ACTion!
Evangelina Blanco, GEAR UP Academic Content Coach for Science, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, GEAR UP College in ACTion!
Willie Brown, Science Teacher, Rivera High School
Robert Arce, ELAR Teacher, Economedes High School
Cristina Saldaña, Mathematics Department Chair/Dual Enrollment & AP Teacher, La Joya High School

12. Introducing the Implementation Model for West Virginia’s New, Online College-Going Culture Toolkit Holmead
Following a brief introduction of West Virginia’s new, online College-Going Culture toolkit, attendees will have an opportunity to complete a college-going culture self-assessment, analyze their results, and determine how a similar tool could be effectively implemented throughout their own grant. Attendees and presenters will collaborate in small groups and via a larger facilitated dialogue to determine strategies and best practices for an implementation model that fits their needs and fulfills their program’s goals.

Learning Objectives:
- Explore WV’s online college-going culture toolkit and complete the corresponding college-going culture self-assessment.
- Participate in small group discussions to analyze and discuss results.
- Participate in a large group, facilitated discussion to develop an implementation strategy and determine best practices for usage of a college-going culture toolkit within individual grants.

Presenters:
Jason Luyster, Assistant Director, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, West Virginia GEAR UP
Elizabeth Manuel, Senior Director of Student Affairs, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, West Virginia GEAR UP

13. Leveraging Data to Improve Communication Strategies and Share How #GEARUPworks Rock Creek
Have you thought about ways to use data beyond the APR? In this session, GEAR UP staff will discover how leveraging qualitative data can improve communications efforts. We will unpack the process starting with why it is important to strategically document student stories, how you get the most out of student interviews, and how to effectively disseminate the stories through multiple channels. The presenters are bringing together their experiences as evaluation researchers and strategic communicators to better prove that GEAR UP works!

Learning Objectives:
- Develop a plan to showcase qualitative data for communications and storytelling purposes.
- Practice effectively interviewing students, staff, or partners to collect meaningful qualitative data.
- Identify key strategies for improving digital marketing through blogs.

**Presenters:**
Laura Kingston, Communications Coordinator, University of Kansas, Center for Educational Opportunity Programs, GEAR UP Kansas City & Topeka
Meghan Ecker-Lyster, Ph.D., Director of Research, Evaluation & Dissemination, University of Kansas

**14. Participatory Evaluation and Sustainability Team: Cultivating Equity by Empowering Stakeholders**

*Jay*
Equity-minded evaluations empower stakeholders to participate in key evaluation decisions. In this presentation and discussion, Arizona GEAR UP and its program evaluator, ICF, will share how they have integrated GEAR UP stakeholders in evaluation decision-making through their use of a Participatory Evaluation and Sustainability Team (PES team). Participants will learn the value of an advisory-group approach as well as how this approach puts equity-minded evaluation principles into action. Participants will receive various materials and tools for engaging and managing the PES team, which they may use to replicate a similar model in their own GEAR UP programs.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand one approach for putting equity design into practice.
- Learn about participatory research and evaluation methods.
- Explore strategies and resources for developing and managing a participatory advisory group in a GEAR UP evaluation context.

**Presenters:**
Andrea González Sotelo, Assistant Director, Arizona GEAR UP
Johnavae Campbell, Ph.D., Senior Manager, Youth & Adult Education, ICF
Samantha Spinney, Ph.D., Senior Manager, Youth & Adult Education, ICF

**15. Power Up Your GEAR UP: Campus, District & Community Edition**

*Cabinet*
Learn how to empower and implement a successful GEAR UP program using sustainable practices. Through systems, leadership, instruction, and culture we provide student-centered opportunities. Our partnerships successfully support equity and access through the implementation of Early College High School and access to accelerated math through Algebra I for all. Come and design your course of action by leveraging systems. presenters will demonstrate how we achieved 100% of the total Match in three years due to the importance placed on GEAR UP and the power behind it. We will share helpful practices, many resources, and partnerships to create sustainability.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Distinguish four power keys to implement a successful GEAR UP Program.
- Collect and evaluate a variety of resources, supports and examples to implement immediately.
- Create an action plan from our presentation they can use and apply to their GEAR UP program.

**Presenters:**
Megan Mossman, GEAR UP Coordinator, San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District, University of Texas Austin GEAR UP
Dana Linebarger, AVID Instructional Specialist, San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District
Amadeo Villanueva, GEAR UP Coordinator, San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District, University of Texas Austin GEAR UP

16. Themes, Memes, Schemes, and Dreams: Paths for Success for Bronx Year Seven GEAR UP Students

Tenleytown West

This panel will provide coping strategies as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic for year seven GEAR UP students. Through interactive exercises and student presentations, participants will review preparing students to navigate college and career goal challenges in the midst of the pandemic. We will cover moves to be made while preparing for college in the 12th grade and transition level, and when actually entering college. We will also discuss strategies to encourage students to become proactive in understanding how to access resources in their own colleges with student examples of how they have adjusted their planning to become successful.

Learning Objectives:
- Examine how current trends in response to the pandemic, climate change, racial equality/justice, and technology have forced new ways of thinking for beginning college students.
- Learn how to provide students with options to identify and work with locally available resources at their respective college campuses (GEAR UP program and where each student attends).
- Develop techniques to counter students becoming disconnected from their educational plans by building their appreciation of and access to organizational structures, systems, and networks.

Presenters:
Iwan Notowidigdo, Consultant/Research Associate, The Bronx Institute at Lehman College, Bronx GEAR UP Network
Martha Atencio, Project Director, Bronx GEAR UP Network
Rebecca Travis, College Academic Readiness Coach, Bronx GEAR UP Network

17. Things We Wish We Knew: A Top-Down Perspective

Lincoln East

In this facilitated dialogue, we will explore the not so pretty side of being a first/second year GEAR UP program. We will provide information on best practices for working with partners to build a foundation for continued success. In this workshop, you will become comfortable in what seems to be failure to help you to understand that we have all been there. We will take a lens to the ASU GEAR UP grant and provide support tools to display the hardships and success in the beginning stages of GEAR UP from the perspective of a GEAR UP Coordinator and Director. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences with other programs as well as pain points to support in the success and progress of future programs.

Learning Objectives:
- Identify and discuss with peers the areas where success is necessary for the betterment of the grant and participants.
- Articulate and define an annual plan targeting specific area where growth may be achieved.
- Engage and strategize on how to track and find success in the small accomplishments.

Presenters:
Jasmine Dean, Program Manager, Northern Arizona University GEAR UP
Jennifer Murphy, Ph.D., Executive Director, Arizona State University GEAR UP GEAR UP
18. Using the Four Keys to College and Career Readiness to Anchor Your Partnerships

Georgetown East

Effective partnerships are challenging. Partnerships that work are aligned with two critical anchors – a set of student outcomes (vision for readiness) and a shared set of values, beliefs, and mental models (identity). This session will focus on establishing a set of outcomes utilizing the Four Keys to College and Career readiness – an evidence-based framework that can be used to build a vision for readiness for your GEAR UP program. The presenter will provide the theoretical foundation supporting the Four Keys and will highlight the practical application with specific examples illustrating how to use it to connect and strengthen efforts within and across partners and the various components of your GEAR UP program.

Learning Objectives:
- Develop an understanding of how to use the Four Keys to bridge component parts of a GEAR UP program.
- Explore specific strategies to create and utilize a shared vision for readiness using the Four Keys as a foundational framework.
- Engage in reflective activities with the intention to identify practical steps to strengthen your GEAR UP partnerships.

Presenters:
Matt Coleman, Chief Executive Officer, Inflexion
Elise Kuykendall, Director of Partnerships, Inflexion

19. White Coat Society: Preparing Black Students to Serve Their Community Through Healthcare Careers

Jefferson East

“White Coat Society” leverages the success of Black practitioners who have navigated entry into the healthcare field. Black students in income-suppressed, rural communities lack opportunity and access. Hence, there is a need to infuse a targeted approach weaving opportunity and access into a curated blueprint for students’ exploration. Presenters will share the results of a model pilot program that: (1) implemented an engaging modular digital curriculum designed specifically for GEAR UP Dougherty students; (2) evaluated the mindset of students and their attitudes, and beliefs towards post-secondary readiness; and (3) employed mixed format learning activities that fueled discovery for interest and desire to pursue healthcare related careers.

Learning Objectives:
- Discuss GEAR UP Dougherty’s partnership with “I Wear a White Coat” author, Dr. Ericka V. Hylick.
- Identify barriers that Black students often face in higher education when choosing to embark on a career as a medical or health research professional.
- Articulate the soft skills Black students need that will empower and prepare them for the “White Coat Society” that awaits them.

Presenters:
Alana Simmons, Ph.D., Project Director, Dougherty County School System, GEAR UP Dougherty
Ericka Hylick, Pharm.D., Pharmacist/Author, Pressed & Paged, LLC
GEAR UP was founded upon a broad consensus that expanding college access and success for students from low-income communities is an important priority that yields powerful benefits for families, communities, and our society. However, a principal challenge for our work ahead is ensuring that the GEAR UP agenda thrives during a time of deepening polarization and partisanship. How can we effectively lead efforts to solve the stubborn problems GEAR UP is designed to address when trust and cooperation is in short supply?

Stanford psychologist and author of The War for Kindness, Dr. Jamil Zaki will share a science-based approach for understanding how rising cynicism—the belief that people are selfish and conniving—is weakening our ability to connect, innovate, and solve problems together. Dr. Zaki will provide intentional steps we can take to become better leaders as we navigate this invisible threat.

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm  Monday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions | Block 2

20. Circling Up: Horizontal Practices That Create Belonging, Equity and Access! PT 1
   Georgetown West
What does it mean to have systems in place for student voice, inclusion, belonging, healing, and engagement? Socratic and Restorative Justice circles, coupled with culturally responsive and sustainable pedagogy, have proven to build foundational opportunities for first-generation students to access deeper connections with the college-going experience. These horizontal practices move away from traditional top-down methodologies that have long focused on deficits that drive students away from higher education. Instead of historic patriarchal representations, these engaging practices enroll students into asset-based pedagogies that allow students to build connections, find relevancy, and expand knowledge based on their own lived experiences. These dialogic approaches serve as foundational in building school community, creating trusting relationships, developing student agency and belonging.

Learning Objectives:
- Learn practices, foundational knowledge, and purpose for “Circles.”
- Participate in small groups and learn the basic Circle process.
- Receive opportunities to learn how to create second level circles such as “Harm Circles,” “Creating Professional Development through Collective Wisdom” and “Delivering Content.”

Presenters:
Djelani Hamm, Ph.D., Program Coordinator, GEAR UP 4 LA
Jill Manning, Ed.D., Program Coordinator, GEAR UP 4 LA
21. **College-Going Culture: Prioritizing Academic Readiness**  
*Georgetown East*

One of the top reasons students drop out of college is being unprepared for the academic demands of rigorous coursework. We work tirelessly to create a college-going culture, but how do we help support students now to ensure they are set up for success without giving them a false sense of self when it comes to academic readiness? In this interactive session, participants will gain an understanding of academic readiness and examine how to use rigor and mindset to build a campus culture that focuses on and values academics. Participants will also explore strategies to support students & their campus in making this a priority.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand what academic readiness is and isn't, and the role it plays in creating a college-going culture.
- Examine how to use rigor and mindset to build a campus culture that focuses on and values academic readiness.
- Explore strategies to help increase academic readiness and create an action plan for implementation.

**Presenters:**
- Jeri-Ashley Bremer, Educator Outreach Coach, The University of Texas at Austin GEAR UP
- Cathy Cantrell Moak, Ph.D., Project Manager, The University of Texas at Austin GEAR UP
- Kelli Taylor, Educator Outreach Coach, The University of Texas at Austin GEAR UP
- Candy Vera, Educator Outreach Coach, The University of Texas at Austin GEAR UP

22. **Creating a GEAR UP Parent Leadership Council to work with YOU!**  
*Lincoln West*

We know that student positive outcomes of engaged parents are powerful. In this session, we will present the Parent Leadership Council (PLC) campus model. The model serves the purpose of assisting the GEAR UP Coordinator plan, organize and execute services for families. Parents selected for the PLC are volunteers that assist in many ways for events such as making calls to recruit other GEAR UP parents, obtain parent signatures at the event check-in tables, greeters, guide participants to classrooms or auditoriums, introduce presenters, serve meals or snacks, and ensure materials and supplies are in each session prior to the event. The site where this model has been implemented has a high level of participation from parents and students in activities planned by coordinator. Students of Parent Leadership Council are actively involved with UTRGV GEAR UP activities and events, with some of the students participating in the Student Leadership Council.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Provide opportunities for participants to explore and discuss the model for creating a volunteer GEAR UP Parent Leadership Council.
- Engage and plan strategies to recruit families to increase GEAR UP parent engagement.
- Discuss the How to Recruit GEAR UP Parent Volunteers guide and create a preliminary plan for school site.

**Presenters:**
- Monica Padron, Academic Content Coach - Family Specialist, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, UTRGV GEAR UP
- Cristina Garzoria, Coordinator, Porter Early College High School, UTRGV GEAR UP
- Frieda Belton, GEAR UP Parent, Porter Early College High School, UTRGV GEAR UP
- Reyna Rangel, GEAR UP Parent, Porter Early College High School, UTRGV GEAR UP
23. **Creating Virtual College & Career Planning Resources**  
*Fairchild*

During COVID, we have had to adapt many of our live events to virtual resources for students. We will share several of these resources with you, including a video library with more than 100 career speakers, college & career planning workshops broken into short videos with guided reflection questions, and application resources for 12th grade families. We will demo these resources and provide materials to help you create similar resources for your students. We will also share tips from a GEAR UP outreach counselor on how to use these resources most effectively with students.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Demo virtual college and career planning resources.
- Learn tips and best practices for using these resources with students.
- Walk away prepared to use these resources with students and/or replicate them to serve specific populations.

**Presenters:**
Anna Telensky, Special Events Coordinator, VSAC, Vermont State GEAR UP  
Patricia Turner, GEAR UP Outreach Counselor, VSAC, Vermont State GEAR UP

*Jefferson East*

GEAR UP excels at nurturing student voices—the best voices to tell your GEAR UP story! Through partnership with a National Writing Project site, Lafayette GEAR UP successfully leveraged alumni voices, teacher support, oral history and journalism techniques, creative writing strategies, and expert advice to creatively chronicle seven years of GEAR UP events, connections, and impacts. In this interactive workshop, participants will learn about and engage in tasks from this publishing project/internship for GEAR UP alumni. Participants will access tools (including the published multi-genre book) they can apply to their own projects to ensure student voices continue to be heard.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Recognize the value in individual stories and the ways in which they are documented and shared.
- Engage in an interview and navigate the process of composing a creative writing piece based on interview data.
- Understand the impacts of the GEAR UP journey on students, parents, educators, partners, GEAR UP staff, and other stakeholders.

**Presenters:**
Megan Breaux, Partnership/Data Management Coordinator, Lafayette GEAR UP  
Toby Daspit, Ph.D., Professor of Education, Department Head of Curriculum and Instruction, and Consultant Emeritus of the National Writing Project of Acadiana, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
H. Michelle Kreamer, Ed.D., Assistant Professor; Co-director of the National Writing Project of Acadiana, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Traci Aucoin, Project Director, Lafayette GEAR UP

25. **Friday Night Lights: Bridging the Gap Between School and Community**  
*Jefferson West*

With the return to in-person services, the GEAR UP program at San Benito High School was determined to reconnect with the community after the pandemic. A decision was made to tap into the biggest thing in Texas: Friday Night Football. Campus Facilitators partnered with local businesses, military recruiting offices, and higher education institutions to provide engaging, thoughtful, and intentional college and career readiness tailgate events. Community partners engaged with students and families by providing
college or career information, answering targeted questions, and through skill-challenges through interactive games, and hands-on career exploration activities. This initiative occurred at every home game and established a footprint for future community-focused college and career readiness events. Attendees will engage in discussion and planning efforts to replicate a tailgate event to connect with their community in a relevant and intentional way.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Recognize how to organize a College and Career Tailgate including establish logistics, marketing the event, recruiting community partners, gaining buy-in from district/campus leadership, utilizing student volunteers, and engaging families.
- Understand how to provide a targeted experience utilizing data from the ACT Mosaic Survey, National Student Clearing House Report, Labor Market Reports, and Xello College and Career Readiness Software to address students’ SEL needs, college/university trends, and career interests.
- Identify the impact of the event on students, parents, and the community.

**Presenters:**
Nicole Saenz, Program Assistant, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set!
Sonia Flores, GEAR UP Facilitator, San Benito High School, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set!
Juan Orozco, GEAR UP Facilitator, San Benito High School, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set!
Irma Izabel Perez, GEAR UP Facilitator, San Benito High School, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set!
Rudy Ramirez, Principal, San Benito High School, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set!

26. **From the “Holler” to the Hill: How Rural Youth Make Local, State, and National Impact**

**Cabinet**
Youth voice is crucial—it is vital to our progress as a people and essential to the welfare of our communities. While many students possess the power to lead, more often than not, few are heard. Discover how a rural GEAR UP program has empowered students to amplify their voices from the Appalachian Mountains to Capitol Hill. Join this interactive discussion by engaging with our student leaders in an immersive and vulnerable exchange of experiences. This session intends to provide attendees with an established model of our program that emboldens students to positively impact their schools, selves, and communities.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Explore innovative methods of student engagement to maximize student voice.
- Adapt a model student leadership program to thrive within any school environment.
- Harness the power of empathy to build a robust support system for students.

**Presenters:**
Lindsey Baldwin, Program Manager, Partners for Education/Berea College, GEAR UP Promise Zone
Makala Stambaugh, Student Leader, Partners for Education/Berea College, GEAR UP Promise Zone
Isaiah Dick, Student Leader, Partners for Education/Berea College, GEAR UP Promise Zone
Nellie Ellis, Student Leader, Partners for Education/Berea College, GEAR UP Promise Zone
Nicholas Shearer, Student Leader, Partners for Education/Berea College, GEAR UP Promise Zone

27. **GEAR UP For Success: The Summer Program So Good Students Won’t Want to Leave**

**Lincoln East**
After a year of hybrid and remote learning, many students struggled to finish the school year academically, socially, and emotionally strong. To keep students on track to graduate and actively
engaged in the community, GEAR UP Manchester and a local higher education institution partnered together for a 6-week extensive summer experience. During this 6-week experience, 98% of students gained academic credit, students learned about 10 career pathways, and of course we had fun. In this interactive presentation, participants will learn how transformative partnerships can help students find their passions, explore college options, build lasting relationships, gain academic high school credit, and explore career pathways.

Learning Objectives:
- Learn how to develop an intensive summer program.
- Identify and discuss strategies to address holistic approach to students’ well-being.
- Explore ways to establish sustainable partnerships with community partners, including higher education institutions.

Presenters:
Damond Ford, Associate Director, New Hampshire GEAR UP Alliance, GEAR UP Manchester
Lucy Weathers, Access Coordinator, New Hampshire College and University Council, GEAR UP Manchester
Kristine Dudley, Director of Workforce Development, Manchester Community College

28. Growth Mindset: A Replication Study to Increase Student Engagement
Van Ness
In this session, we will share the Evidence-Based Decision-Making framework used to guide the replication of the Growth Mindset research titled, “A national experiment reveals where a growth mindset improves achievement. Nature, 2019”. We will share the intervention and data showing the effects on students’ engagement in school and the outcome of students’ grades. Participants will receive copies of the framework to use as professional development with local schools.

Learning Objectives:
- Explore a new framework for professional development: Evidence-Based Decision Making.
- Learn the results of a replicated study from Thomas University GEAR UP.
- Understand best practices related to Growth Mindset.

Presenters:
Melanie Martin, GEAR UP Director, Thomas University - Pre-College Programs
Jennifer Wilson- Kearse, Executive Director, Vela Institute
Katrina Gunning, Professional Development Consultant / General Education Teacher, Vela Institute / Central Bucks School District

29. GU Mass Asks - "Are Your Students Ready for the YouTube Revolution?"
Tenleytown East
Did you know that 77% of 15-to-25-year-olds in the U.S. use YouTube? Students are excited to pursue careers in social media, so how does your GEAR UP program teach these skills? Learn how GU Mass staff led a 2-week YouTube Camp where students went from zero experience to launching their own YouTube channel! This interactive, hands-on, experiential session will teach participants the fundamentals of launching their own YouTube channel.

Learning Objectives:
- Learn how to set up a YouTube Channel.
- Learn the 10 Fundamentals of YouTube.
- Obtain the framework to launch a YouTube Channel.

Presenters:
Rachelle Lappinen, College and Career Coordinator, MassEdCO, GEAR UP MA
Patrick Quinlan, GEAR UP Advisor, Valley Opportunity Council, GEAR UP MA
Hello, Chatbot: The Potential of AI for College Access and Success

Kalorama

Can emerging technology like AI help more students navigate the path to college? In this session, participants will learn about the use of the Cha-Ching Chatbot developed by GEAR UP Mississippi with Mainstay. Brandi Lyndall, Get2College GEAR UP Mississippi Program Director, will inform participants about project partners’ collaborative use of the chatbot on the state financial aid website, on college websites, and on high school websites. Dr. Cutler White will provide participants with up-to-date research and evidence of the usefulness of chatbots for supporting GEAR UP students. Kirk Daulerio, co-founder of AI developer Mainstay will help participants learn about the role Artificially Intelligent (AI)-enabled chatbots have in providing students with on-demand support throughout the admissions and enrollment process as well as throughout the transition to college and through the first year of college as a GEAR UP seventh year.

Learning Objectives:
- Explore the ways in which GEAR UP MS is using AI chatbots to serve students through the college application, FAFSA, and enrollment processes, as well as through the seventh year.
- Explore collaborative relationships (high school, college, financial aid agency) to leverage the power of GEAR UP to serve students through AI and other emerging technologies in ways that maximize engagement for students and families.
- Explore current research and best practices for using AI effectively and discuss potential paths forward for future initiatives to serve GEAR UP students and families more effectively.

Presenters:
Brandi Lyndall, MS Director, Get2College, GEAR UP Mississippi
Kirk Daulerio, Co-Founder and Chief Evangelist, Mainstay
Carol Cutler White, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Mississippi State University, GEAR UP Mississippi

Helping Your Students Determine What’s Next and Launch Their Futures

Holmead

Arizona GEAR UP first created the Senior Launch Guide for the Class of 2018 and GEAR UP Tennessee used the Guide to create the first Senior Next Guide for the Class of 2020. These college and career handbooks provide information and activities for high school seniors as they decide their next steps and launch their postsecondary goals. These resources cover topics including career exploration, financial aid, types of colleges, college fit, and preparing for the workforce and the military. Join this session as we review the content, development, and impact of these resources that now reach over 40,000 students in these two states each year.

Learning Objectives:
- Learn about the content and effectiveness of the Launch and Next Guides.
- Apply knowledge of the Guides and consider how to create and utilize similar resources in your program and schools.
- Identify how the Guides can be used to increase school’s college-going rates, address equity gaps, and serve at-risk students.

Presenters:
Daniel Pulu, Program Manager, Northern Arizona University, Arizona GEAR UP
Debbie Brown, Regional Coordinator, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, GEAR UP Tennessee
Elvin Browne, Regional Coordinator, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, GEAR UP Tennessee
32. **How to Bring the GEAR UP Vision to Your School**

*Tenleytown West*

In this presentation, you will be introduced to a new way to look at education as a solution to poverty in your community. You will have the opportunity to interact with the team members that are building a GEAR UP Program from concept to success with this goal in mind. The presenters will share ways to bring acceptance and ownership to the staff, students, parents, and community of this vision. The primary learning objective is for participants to have a clear path to create their own program or fine tune an existing program through an innovative look and discussion with those who are living the experience now. In this presentation, an education model will be offered with the opportunity to ask the questions addressing the challenges that all of us face in today’s education field. You will be provided links to all the materials, including videos and slide materials containing several sources of data.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn how to create your vision.
- Move your vision into a plan.
- Prepare you for the unexpected challenges and opportunities.

**Presenters:**
- Ken Baugh, Superintendent, Culberson County Allamooire ISD, TX GEAR UP Grants to Districts
- Sondra McCoy, Director, Van Horn TECH, Culberson County Allamooire ISD, TX Gear Up Grants to Districts
- Allison Corrales, College & Career Director, Culberson County Allamooire ISD, TX GEAR UP Grants to Districts
- Lindsey Tyrrell, Director, Information Technology, Culberson County-Allamooire ISD

33. **In-person to Asynchronous: Adapting Your College Readiness Activities for a Hybrid Environment**

*Gunston*

The transition to hybrid learning has brought awareness to an opportunity to develop resources that fill a need for a new direction of learning in the twenty-first century. Our presentation will provide attendees with the outline to create their own hybrid learning curriculum based on their specific needs. Highlighted examples include using educational resources to create an engaging and interactive learning experience and using virtual scavenger hunts to bring awareness to postsecondary opportunities both near and far. These educational resources can include in-person instructional strategies and online tools, which allow you to take your content and adapt it to maximize student learning.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify hybrid learning needs.
- Explore hybrid learning resources.
- Devise a plan for the next steps to adapt a current activity to a hybrid format.

**Presenters:**
- Amber Stokes, Lead Student Experiences Coordinator, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS
- Brittley Base, Student Experiences Coordinator, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS
- Lacy Pennington, Project Director, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS

34. **Learning Formats Matter: The Impact of Tutoring on Rural Students’ ACT Performance**

*Show*

This presentation will explore the effects of our ACT learning services - tutoring, test preparation, and practice tests - on the ACT scores of rural students in the Appalachian region of western North Carolina. We will interactively discuss two questions: (1) did the experimental students who received our ACT
learning services outscore the control students who did not receive these learning services; and (2) when delivering our learning services, which learning type/format (virtual, face-to-face, or a combination of both) more positively impacted the students’ ACT scores. We will also interactively discuss how we might refine our ACT learning services to better enhance future students’ ACT scores.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify and discuss the impact of tutoring services on students’ ACT performance.
- Identify and discuss different types of tutoring services (virtual, face-to-face, a combination of both).
- Examine and discuss the impact of time on the relationship between two tutoring services (virtual, face-to-face) and students’ ACT performance.

**Presenters:**
Jui-Teng Li, GEAR UP Assistant Director Research & Evaluation, Appalachian State University GEAR UP
Corinne Smith, GEAR UP Director, Appalachian State University GEAR UP
James Beeler, Senior Director, College Access Partnerships, Appalachian State University GEAR UP

35. **Mobilize and Strengthen Your Program Through Strategic Visual Communication**

*Cardozo*

Building relationships and encouraging stakeholder engagement through our GEAR UP program is a vital part of our work. How do we take our communication to the next level? The K20 GEAR UP development team has found unique ways to strategically communicate program goals, share research, and deliverables through visual representations. This interactive session will provide participants with the tools and resources they need to successfully create visual communication that informs stakeholders, strengthens partnerships, communicates goals and data, and inspires collaborative action. Participants will walk away with tools and resources for how they can implement visual communication strategies in their program.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Explore how the purpose of visual representations can serve as a tool for strategic communications.
- Identify the tools and features available for creating a strategic visual representation.
- Determine ways to apply this approach within an individual GEAR UP program.

**Presenters:**
Shayna Pond, Adult Learning Designer, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP OKC
Lindsay Hawkins, Lead Professional Development Coordinator, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP MY SUCCESS
Caitlin Shogren, Senior Graphic Designer and Illustrator, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP OKC
Lindsay Williams, Ph.D., Project Director, K20 Center, GEAR UP for the FUTURE

36. **Open Lab: Peer Consulting**

*International Terrace*

Come get personalized advice for a challenge you’re facing in your GEAR UP work. During quick round-robin consultations, you can ask for help and get suggestions immediately from two others. This session of peer-to-peer coaching will give you practice in communicating your needs clearly and listening to others, while also uncovering new approaches to your problem. All roles and experience levels welcome! Open Labs are an opportunity for networking and informal conversations within the GEAR UP community.
Learning Objectives:
- Connect and network with others in the GEAR UP community.
- Work in groups of three to share challenges, problem-solve, and provide solutions.

Presenters:
Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, NCCEP
Dana Beck, Director of Practice, NCCEP

37. Telling Your Program’s Most Powerful Story: Plugging Into Local and Nat’l Frameworks-Increase Buy-In
Rock Creek
In this session, we will discuss how the story we tell about our programs can dramatically impact the support and buy-in we receive from our communities. We will discuss the benefits of plugging into local and national frameworks and student-centered competencies to guide practice and communication. Finally, we will practice streamlining our stories in an effort to reduce misinterpretation, unreciprocated enthusiasm, and misalignment of goals as we work with students, school staff, and parents.

Learning Objectives:
- Discuss how barriers in communication can negatively impact the support and buy-in we desire for our programs.
- Learn how we can plug into pre-existing resources and frameworks at the local and national levels to help guide our programs and the way we communicate our programs’ powerful stories to students, staff, administrators, parents, and community members.
- Practice framing the work we do in our programs in a way that translates clearly to all stakeholders.

Presenters:
Jacque Deahl, MATC Project Director, GEAR UP Idaho, Idaho State Department of Education

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Networking Break and Raffle in Exhibit Hall
Columbia

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm Monday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions | Block 3

38. Advancing Academics Through SEL: Is Resilience the Key?
Tenleytown West
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has placed the need for social-emotional learning supports in the spotlight. Fortunately, districts now have more funding to support such efforts. How can we leverage the best social-emotional and academic outcomes for students? Is focusing on resilience the key? In this interactive lecture, participants will explore resilience as a concept and find out what our case study revealed about its correlations to academic success within our cohort.

Learning Objectives:
- Develop an understanding of the dynamic nature of resilience and discuss its association with student outcomes.
- Develop an awareness of the important role schools/educators can play in fostering resiliency.
- Plan a practical strategy to promote resilience.

Presenters:
Waynetta Turner, Site Facilitator, GEAR UP Birmingham
Donna Turner, Ph.D., Evaluator, SpectrumRED
Melody Harrington, Site Facilitator, GEAR UP Birmingham
39. **Beyond the APR: What Can You Do with All Those Nuggets of Data?**
*Fairchild*

Do you collect data solely for purposes of the Annual Performance Report (APR) or do you also look for learning nuggets? There are many possible nuggets in GEAR UP data. Pennsylvania used nuggets to create issue briefs combining quantitative and qualitative data to inform programming. This session discusses how secondary evaluation questions were generated, learning nuggets that led to issue briefs, and resulting findings. Through small and large group discussions, participants will have the opportunity to generate questions to use learning nuggets to inform programming.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Generate ideas about how to formulate data beyond the APR.
- Examine the use of data to inform programming.
- Create a plan to use data to inform programming.

**Presenters:**
Christy King, Ed.D., Internal Evaluator/Associate Director, Shippensburg University, PA State GEAR UP
Pam Carter, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, FHI 360

40. **Bridging the Gap in Mathematics Using PSAT 8/9**
*Georgetown East*

Learn how early mathematics intervention targeting low-income and first-generation incoming 8th graders enhances students' mathematics knowledge and creates a successful pipeline to sequential math courses throughout middle school, high school, and potentially postsecondary. Review outcomes (data elements) that demonstrate mathematics knowledge and retention beyond a summer intervention. Additionally, learn how College Board PSAT 8/9 assessment results are used along with other multiple measures to drive the curriculum for a summer math academy.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn how early mathematics intervention targeting low-income and first-generation incoming 8th graders enhances students’ mathematics knowledge and creates a successful pipeline to sequential math courses throughout middle school, high school and potentially postsecondary.
- Learn how College Board assessment data is used to support instruction during math interventions.
- Learn how a public institution of higher education and the College Board have collaborated to raise student achievement within the Central Valley of California.

**Presenters:**
Ismael Serrano, Assistant Director of Program Improvement, University of California, Merced: Center for Educational Partnerships, GEAR UP - COJUS
Lisa Castillo, District Director of College & Career Readiness, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

41. **Circling Up: Horizontal Practices That Create Belonging, Equity and Access! PT 2**
*Georgetown West*

Building on the basics of creating Circles, this session takes a deeper dive into building relationships that serve as the foundation for trust, equity, belonging and success. Socratic and Restorative Justice Circles, coupled with culturally responsive and sustainable pedagogy, have proven to build foundational opportunities for first-generation students to access deeper connections with the college-going experience. These horizontal practices move away from traditional top-down methodologies that have long focused on deficits that drive students away from higher education. Instead of historic patriarchal representations, these engaging practices enroll students into asset-based pedagogies that allow students to build connections, find relevancy, and expand knowledge based on their own lived
experiences. These dialogic approaches serve as foundational in building school community, creating trusting relationships, and developing student agency and belonging.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Continue to learn practices foundational creating “Circles.”
- Learn how to take a deeper dive into the fundamental uses and practices of "Circles."
- Learn how to create second level circles such as “Harm Circles,” “Teaching Content,” and "Creating Didactic Practices" based on Community Wisdom.

**Presenters:**
Djelani Hamm, Ph.D., Program Coordinator, GEAR UP 4 LA
Jill Manning, Ed.D., Program Coordinator, GEAR UP 4 LA

42. Data-Centered Student Profile: Personalize Your Interactions with this Tool

**Show**
We know the importance of data-informed decision making, but are we putting it into practice when it comes to advising? In this presentation/interactive session, attendees will learn about a dynamic, data-informed advising tool: the Student Profile. Presenters will demonstrate how the Profile is used in a real-life setting, discuss the rich components of the Profile and its purposes, as well as guide participants through the brainstorming process of creating Student Profiles at their own sites.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Engage in a video of an advising session between student and coordinator informed by the Student Profile.
- Interact with and Learn about the GEAR UP Compton Student Profiles.
- Understand and practice a process for developing Student Profiles at participants’ respective sites.

**Presenters:**
Sevan Kalaydjian, Senior Analyst, UCI Center for Educational Partnerships, GEAR UP Compton
Maximiliano Rosas, Director, CSUDH, GEAR UP Compton
Julie Jaramillo, Director of Evaluation and Data Insights, Xcalibur

43. Designing and Implementing a Credit-Bearing Summer Program to Help Students Re-Engage and Excel

**Rock Creek**
GEAR UP Austin implemented a highly engaging summer program for students, who needed additional support and re-engagement following remote learning. Our credit-bearing summer program reinforced writing and math curriculum, introduced students to creative careers, and exposed them to college campuses. This interactive session will help participants design their own content-specific summer program that explores careers and college programs while re-engaging students and supporting on-time graduation. Participants will brainstorm through backwards mapping and accessing planning resources, leaving the session with a draft of a personalized summer program. GEAR UP staff will share their experiences and advice every step of the way.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Develop an outline of a yearlong plan to implement a GEAR UP summer camp at your campus or district that addresses a core subject area.
- Create a summer program to offer GEAR UP students the opportunity to explore unique careers, college programs, and enhance knowledge.
- Hear program feedback and advice from GEAR UP practitioners, students, parents.
Presenters:
Corazón Aguilar, Project Director, Austin Independent School District, GEAR UP Austin
Odera Anyasinti, Project Specialist/Facilitator, Austin Independent School District, GEAR UP Austin
JaCorey Mosely, Project Specialist/Facilitator, Austin Independent School District, GEAR UP Austin

44. Discovery Lab: STEM Discovery Lab (Invitation-Only)
   Cabinet
   This is an invitation-only meeting is for the participants of NCCEP’s STEM Discovery Lab.

45. La Sábana - Lived Experiences, Meaningful Connections
   Lincoln West
   “You don’t know my life!” “You have no idea what it’s like!” How many times have you heard this in education? Our students think we just don’t understand. Building relationships and maintaining them is key to the success and impact of any program. This is especially true in our GEAR UP efforts. But, while we typically work to establish relationships with students, are we truly making connections with them? Join us for a discussion on the importance your ability to share your story to be a more effective and lifelong support for your GEAR UP students and their families.

Learning Objectives:
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of sharing your story to build meaningful relationships.
- Identify and discuss with peers a lived experience that is relatable to students and/or families.
- Develop a plan for sharing your story that connects students and their families with the overall mission of GEAR UP.

Presenters:
Ricardo Lopez, Jr., Director, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Now-Career Connected!
Sylvia Vargas, Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Now-Career Connected!

46. Learning can be Fun
   Holmead
   Are you struggling with engagement? Do you have difficulty with keeping the attention of your students? For many programs, countless distractions and barriers stand in the way of effective student engagement. During this session, Eastern Oklahoma GEAR UP will showcase activities that can be easily adapted to any classroom setting. Every participant will take away tools and resources to confidently engage with students at the Middle School and High School level. Join us, to learn how you can turn every lesson or workshop into a fun experience for your students!

Learning Objectives:
- Successfully implement activities that are both interactive and educational.
- Utilize educational materials in fun interactive ways to reach and teach students.
- Use innovative tools to help keep students engaged in the learning process.

Presenters:
LaDonna Baldwin, Education Coordinator, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Ignite Belief
Hutch Perry, Education Coordinator, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Ignite Belief
Pete Marley, Education Coordinator, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Ignite Belief

47. Modality Matters: How Virtual & Direct Service Delivery Uniquely Relate to Postsecondary Enrollment
   Cardozo
   This presentation explores GEAR UP virtual and direct services’ relationships with postsecondary enrollment and the benefit of service-delivery modalities on postsecondary enrollment of students with
different learning profiles. Our interactive discussion highlights how service-delivery modalities increase postsecondary enrollment. This session features opportunities for the audience to reflect on their own services and digs deeper into the study’s outcome (students’ postsecondary enrollment). This session is for all GEAR UP personnel interested in learning more about long-term impacts of GEAR UP services on postsecondary enrollment and the unique contributions of each service and its delivery modality on postsecondary enrollment of students with different learning profiles.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify which GEAR UP services and delivery modalities are linked to postsecondary enrollment.
- Understand which combinations of GEAR UP services and delivery modalities provide the most benefit to students from specific demographic and academic backgrounds with regard to postsecondary enrollment.
- Know how the alignment of service delivery and evaluation efforts can support GEAR UP goals and increase student postsecondary success.

**Presenters:**
**Shawn Bergman, Ph.D.,** Kulynych/Cline Distinguished Professor of Psychology; Director of Research, Appalachian State University / Vela Institute
**Jui-Teng Li,** GEAR UP Assistant Director Research & Evaluation, Appalachian State University GEAR UP
**Corinne Smith,** GEAR UP Director, Appalachian State University GEAR UP
**Catherine Parks,** Graduate Research Assistant, Appalachian State University, Center for Analytics Research and Education

**48. Open Lab: Light Up the GEAR UP Message: Storytelling and Advocacy**
*International Terrace*

Attend this Open Lab to discover your education story and how your story can help lift up the national message that #GEARUPworks. Everyone in GEAR UP is an advocate! Join Washington, D.C. advocacy experts to learn how your story can contribute to efforts to increase support for GEAR UP in your local communities and on Capitol Hill. Open Labs are an opportunity for networking and informal conversations within the GEAR UP community. This session is for anyone interested in networking and learning more about how they can contribute to national grassroots advocacy efforts.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Network: meet others in the GEAR UP community.
- Mobilize: light up the GEAR UP Network to elevate the #GEARUPworks message.
- Connect: bring together the GEAR UP community and advocacy experts.

**Presenters:**
**Emily Crawford,** Director of Government Relations, NCCEP
**Sarah Abernathy,** Executive Director, Committee for Education Funding

**49. Promoting Career Readiness and Equity Through Soft Skills, Hard Skills, and Student Voice**
*Jefferson East*

To prepare students to adapt to a global economy and careers that don’t yet exist, education must make significant shifts from our current approach. This facilitated dialogue will utilize the Career Preparedness Systems Framework to share effective methods and structures focusing on three key student drivers: 21st century skills, technical skills, and student voice. Forged through partnerships that include the Anaheim Union High School District, CSUF GEAR UP, Google, and more than 90 other community partners, the Framework is designed for implementation through student pathways and programs such as cybersecurity, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, civic learning, business entrepreneurship.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand, implement and assess a shared vision for career readiness and equity through:
The Career Preparedness Systems Framework (AUHSD's approach to teaching and learning in preparing students for college and the world of work)

The Anaheim Collaborative and the Educational Pledge (How AUHSD leverages our higher education partners and local business to support our students during and beyond their high school experience)

High Quality CTE Pathways (How AUHSD develops cutting edge pathways connected to local businesses and higher education partners that aligns students' educational experience with what is needed to succeed in the world of work)

The Capstone Program (How AUHSD measures student growth in content and 21st Century skill development).

Presenters:
Michael Matsuda, Superintendent, AUHSD
Jaron Fried, Assistant Superintendent, AUHSD
Amanda Bean, Director, Career Preparedness Systems Framework Implementation, AUHSD
Diana Fujimoto, Coordinator of Professional Learning, AUHSD
Honee Herrera, Academic Coordinator, CSUF GEAR UP

50. Simple Activities That Can Help Engage Our Parents and Their Families

Jefferson West

Parent engagement, family engagement, student engagement. The one common denominator in all of these is engagement; yet it’s the part that we are least prepared for. During this session, the CoolSpeak team will provide practical activities that all GEAR UP programs can immediately put into action with their parent and/or family engagement efforts. This session will cover everything from the invitation, opening icebreakers, activities, energizers, and recruitment of our parents and their families. Come learn from one of the best family engagement teams that deliver their programming in both English and Spanish.

Learning Objectives:
- Learn an array of activities to implement in their programming efforts.
- Discover new manners to increase engagement and participation.
- Understand the importance of creating content that our parents feel is beneficially and informative.

Presenters:
Ernesto Mejia, Vice President, CoolSpeak
Natasha Carrizosa, CoolSpeaker, CoolSpeak

51. The Key to a Robust Bridge to College Experience: Pathways, Partnerships, and Organization

Gunston

Particularly in this pandemic age, students are exploring individualized pathways to postsecondary education. Bridge to College programs help students envision themselves continuing their education. Developing an impactful Bridge to College experience requires understanding the postsecondary education options, developing and maintaining good partnerships, and a hands-on approach to develop and track program deliverables. In this interactive workshop, participants will define postsecondary education options, explore how to develop and maintain relationships with college partners, and discuss Indiana GEAR UP’s development and tracking of a Bridge to College program that incorporated 14 diverse postsecondary institutions.

Learning Objectives:
- Define postsecondary education pathways.
- Explore how to develop postsecondary education partnerships.
- Discuss the hands-on approach Indiana GEAR UP used to develop and track a large Bridge to College program.

**Presenters:**
Jean Trusedell, College and Career Specialist, Indiana GEAR UP  
José Medina, School & Community Outreach Manager, Indiana Commission for Higher Education  
Tabitha Cinowski, Director of Operations, Indiana GEAR UP

**52. The Power of Peer Influence**  
*Tenleytown East*

The power of positive peer influence changes lives. “They don’t care how much you know... until they know how much you CARE.” Our peers are leading by example and speaking hope, commitment, and encouragement into the lives of their peers. Peer-to-peer mentoring forms a sustainable and transformable system where mentors show empathy, compassion, and real talk with their mentees. Through personal examples, stories and words of wisdom the incoming students apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to support responsible decision making. Attendees will leave this session with an idea of how to expand leadership capacity within their schools by empowering students to become advocates for change! Participants will learn how students can increase self-esteem and inspire confidence in one’s inner purpose in a fun, interactive way.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand the importance of peer influence.
- Learn how to inspire students to become advocates for change.
- Discover how to create a sustainable yearlong peer-to-peer mentoring program.

**Presenters:**
Monique Nunn, Ed.D., Director, Lufkin ISD, LETS GEAR UP Lufkin  
Kris Menon, Co-founder of Ignite Nation, Ignite Nation  
Elizabeth Lopez, Site Coordinator, Lufkin ISD, LETS GEAR UP Lufkin

**53. Transitioning to College: What First-Gen College Students Need to Succeed in College, Voices from First-Year College Students**  
*Kalorama*

First generation students are often challenged by a lack of financial resources, academic preparedness, and cultural conflicts between home and the college culture. For over 60 years, Berea College has worked in educational success, lifting educational aspirations and building academic skills for youth in Appalachian Kentucky. Through our work, we have learned that college access and success is a multidimensional issue, particularly for our students who are first-generation college students from rural Appalachia. This presentation will discuss social and academic, from a combination of research, gleanings from focus groups and interviews with students, and from the students, themselves, through a video diary project.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Increase the understanding of the college-going experiences of Appalachian students, learning directly from students’ voices.
- Expand understanding of college access, college readiness, and college success.
- Learn how an evaluation focus can guide program development and improvement.

**Presenters:**
Judy Kim, Ph.D., External Evaluator, Berea College, GEAR UP SOAR  
Sara White, Director of Programs, Partners for Rural Impact  
Wendy Nealy, External Evaluator, Evaluation Consulting Group, GEAR UP SOAR  
Heather Davis, Dual Credit and Transition Services, Eastern Kentucky University
Trauma-Informed Care Isn’t Tricky, It Just Takes Consistent Coaching
Lincoln East
The GEAR UP community is committed to supporting countless students and families gain access the information, resources, and support systems to manage the overwhelming and exhausting experiences that impact us. We all play such an essential role in the lives of those experiencing trauma, especially our students and families. Constant and consistent training is required of us to consistently meet the needs of those (and us) who have endured challenging circumstances.

Learning Objectives:
- Review the overarching definitions of trauma and trauma-informed care.
- Participate in a discussion regarding the structure and strategies for implementing and sustaining trauma-informed care within your GEAR UP programming.
- Gain access to research-based, open-source trauma-informed care toolkits.

Presenters:
April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, NCCEP

Tuesday | July 19th

7:00 am – 5:00 pm
Conference Registration & Information Booth Open
Terrace Foyer East

7:30 am – 8:45 am
Networking Breakfast
International Ballroom

9:00 am – 10:15 am
Tuesday Morning Plenary
What’s Next? The Opportunity Imperative in STEM
International Ballroom

Tarika Barrett, Ph.D., CEO, Girls Who Code
The world of work is changing fast, with STEM fields playing a central role in reshaping job markets across the globe. Despite the availability and rapid growth of rewarding, high-paying STEM careers, equitable access to these careers remain elusive for students of color, women, rural students, and students from low-income communities. Given the critical role that education plays in promoting social mobility, we must do more to ensure that our students have the interest, confidence, and support to pursue STEM majors and careers.

As the CEO of Girls Who Code, Dr. Tarika Barrett is at the forefront of dismantling obstacles for greater numbers of young women entering tech. Through her experiences as an education and non-profit leader, Dr. Barrett will share her unique perspective on the future of work, the imperative for diversity and inclusion in STEM, and steps we can take to strengthen the STEM pipeline from education to career.

10:15 am – 10:45 am
Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Hall
Columbia
Federal financial aid comprises approximately $112 billion in financial aid to help pay for college or career school each year. Changes are being implemented to enhance the federal government’s financial aid program by streamlining the FAFSA, potentially discharging millions of dollars in federal student loan debt and expanding the federal student loan forgiveness program. These are just a few changes that positively impact students’ and families’ journey to and through the financial aid process. If you support the financial aid process with your students and families, join us as we explore timely updates and information that impact your students and answer your burning questions.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Walk through how financial aid works, resources to pay for college, and loan repayment options.
- Review and analyze the most recent changes, revisions, and updates to the FAFSA and Student Aid Report (SAR).
- Review free resources (publications, fact sheets, online tools, and other resources) to support your students and families as they prepare and pay for college or career school.
- Ask questions about any aspect of the application, verification process, or special circumstances students may face as they apply for financial aid.

**Presenters:**
April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, NCCEP
Dana Kelly, Vice President of Professional Development & Institutional Compliance, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

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**Brighter Future Summit: Affinity-Based Programming for Young Men of Color**

Increasing college awareness and building community amongst low-income, first-generation, and students of color has had and continues to be an obstacle as students return to in-person learning. College enrollment rates have plummeted since the pandemic began. Recent studies have shown that Black students have been the most impacted. Using an equity lens, the GEAR UP Achievers staff compiled data to identify and target students within our cohort to intentionally implement affinity-based programming to support students with the highest barriers. Brighter Future Summit was designed as a one-day, fun, interactive event that gives young Black men the space and opportunity to build community, get inspired, dream and plan for their future. Students learned more about themselves and engaged in topics around Social Emotional Learning and academic goal setting. Follow us on our journey working with principals, district administration, university staff, guest speakers, community partners, and college mentors to launch the 2022 Brighter Futures Summit during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn how to use data to identify affinity-based needs.
- Plan and develop affinity-based programs.
- Engage a population of historically underrepresented students.

**Presenters:**
Eric Dent, Program Coordinator, GEAR UP Achievers
Clarence Baber, GEAR UP Coordinator/College and Career Specialist, GEAR UP Achievers
Quadelle Satterwhite, Program Manager, GEAR UP Achievers
57. **Building your Community and Leveraging Culture in the Context of Data**

*Fairchlid*

This facilitated group dialogue will guide you in formulating a Professional Development Plan focused on increasing Service Engagement while simultaneously learning about data collection, analysis, and use. Rooted in the opportunity to know oneself in the context of your grant you will be in a place to build the team character of your project, leverage opportunities to build upon and expand relationships, critically assess the metrics upon which you build your services, and abate the adverse usual consequences derived from groups which are heavily task oriented. Demonstrating team processes accelerates team development with families, an essential component of student success.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Elucidate a plan for reviewing and enhancing familial engagement opportunities through relationship building.
- Integrate professional development with affective growth and team building.
- Validate data collection and interpretation through a cultural lens.

**Presenters:**
*Ernesto Ramirez, Ed.D.*, Data and Research Manager, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, GEAR UP College in ACTion!
*Kristina Villarreal*, Coordinator, La Joya ISD
*Katherine Iracheta*, Coordinator, Brownsville ISD

58. **College and Career Planning Curriculum: Integrating Equitable Opportunities**

*Tenleytown East*

Vermont State GEAR UP believes it’s vital for all students to have the same learning opportunities and experiences planning for their future. In the spirit of supporting students to opt into college and career programs, we have created a resource-rich comprehensive curriculum map to identify what we believe is important for students to understand, know, and do to be successful while creating and enacting a plan for their future. We will engage participants by utilizing interactive learning activities explaining the attributes of the curriculum map through the lenses of whole school integration, direct service with students, and supervisory systems.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Explore College and Career Planning Curriculum as a guide to promote whole school systems and programs that support their students in graduating with a plan for life after high school.
- Walk away with resources, learning activities, and tools you can use in direct service with students and schools.
- Provide effective supervisory strategies to ensure equitable learning opportunities throughout the college and career learning community.

**Presenters:**
*Amy Dodge*, Lead Outreach Counselor, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, Vermont State GEAR UP
*Lauren Hood*, School Specialist, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
*Dylan Bertolini*, Outreach Counselor, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, Vermont State GEAR UP

59. **Distance from the Nearest College: A Variable Worth Considering in Analysis of GEAR UP Outcomes**

*Shaw*

Analyzing differential outcomes among GEAR UP student subgroups is an important strategy for identifying and closing college access and achievement gaps. In this lecture and discussion, GEAR UP Hawai’i evaluation staff will present their development and use of a new “Near/Far” variable related to distance from the nearest college (as an alternative to rurality/urbanicity) as way to explore differences
in student subgroup outcomes when measuring program implementation and impact. Attendees will learn strategies for constructing and using this variable in evaluating their own GEAR UP programs as well as how to use findings to tailor programming accordingly.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand the value of exploring proximity to the nearest college campus in analysis of differential outcomes among GEAR UP subgroups.
- Learn how to construct and use a Near/Far variable to analyze differences in student experiences and outcomes based on proximity to the nearest college.
- Explore ways to use findings from Near/Far subgroup analyses to deliver targeted programming to close college access and achievement gaps.

**Presenters:**
Samantha Spinney, Ph.D., GEAR UP External Evaluator, ICF
Dan Rempala, Ph.D., Evaluation Specialist, Hawai’i P-20 Partnerships for Education GEAR UP

**60. Exploration Lab: Special Student Populations**

*International Terrace*

Do you work with special student populations? Have you worked with special student populations in the past? Join us for an Exploration Lab as we dive into this topic and facilitate conversations and brainstorm promising practices, resources, and new solutions to these common challenges.

*What is an Exploration Lab?* Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief “Lab Report” after the conference.

*Who should attend?* Anyone who works or has worked directly with special student populations and wants to share their experiences and resources and learn from others.

*What should I expect?* Come ready to participate! Exploration Labs are highly interactive. Facilitators will guide the group through conversations and activities to uncover solutions and new ideas.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Crowdsource solutions to common challenges.
- Participants discuss challenges and share ideas and resources about specific student groups.

**Presenters:**
Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, NCCEP
Roshelle S’Gleason, Site Coordinator/Counselor, Eastern Arizona College

**61. From Visioning to Implementation to Sustainability: Alignment for College & Career Readiness**

*Rock Creek*

We define systems as the processes, protocols, and practices that make up an organization. Districts select initiatives and programs that they believe can bring about desired outcomes. Alignments of people, thought, policies, expectations, and accountability are critical to achieving success. In this session, participants will explore how a district aligned their vision, action, and strategic initiatives to support progress towards achieving their district and site goals. The presenters will engage the participants in discussions and a gap analysis activity around visioning, action, and strategic alignment to support implementation and sustainability to increase rigor and college and career readiness.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand how a district aligned strategic initiatives to support the efforts towards achieving district and site goals.
- Use a gap analysis as a tool to identify and discuss the current state of systems and strategies needed for alignment, successful implementation, and sustainability.
- Learn by experiencing activities that engage educators in classroom strategies designed to increase academic rigor and college and career readiness.

**Presenters:**
Emily Reynolds, MAED Graduation Coach, GEAR UP Grant of Iredell Statesville Schools
Shanda Martin, AVID Program Manager, AVID Center
Albert "Beto" Howell, AVID Partner Engagement Manager
Sherrard Martin, Director of Secondary Curriculum Support & MTSS, Iredell-Statesville Schools

**62. GEAR UP MA presents Beyond Financial Literacy- "Welcome to the F.I.R.E. Movement"**

Holmead

Did you know that the avg. millennial's debt of $87,448 grew 11.5% between 2019 and 2020? Even worse, 66% of millennials have nothing saved for retirement, but there’s hope! There's a movement sweeping the nation called Financial Independence Retire Early, aka, the F.I.R.E. movement, that shows how to follow a proven formula to become debt free & financially independent in 5-15 years as opposed to the traditional 30-40 years. In this interactive & highly engaging session you'll hear how the GU Mass. team applies & teaches these strategies to optimize their finances in order help others become debt free & financially independent sooner than ever imagined!

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn and calculate each participant’s own Financial Independence (FI) Number or amount of money required to live freely without concern for a paycheck.
- Learn and apply the 13 Pillars of Financial Independence to each participant's own situation.
- Each participant will determine the best personalized plan or "hacks" for them to move towards debt freedom and Financial Independence.

**Presenters:**
Robert Dais, Statewide Director, GEAR UP MA/DHE, GEAR UP MA
Monaliza Pena, GEAR UP Advisor/Lawrence, GEAR UP MA
Emily Wall, GEAR UP Advisor/Lawrence, GEAR UP MA

**63. Preparing Students for College with Intentional Programming to Develop Their Skills and Education Intentions**

Gunston

Students need more than core academics to be prepared for the transition to college. This presentation highlights a research-practice collaboration that implemented NCCEP’s Career & College Clubs at Alliance College-Ready Public Schools with modifications to address local needs. Data collected over three academic years shows that GEAR UP students who engaged with the curriculum experienced increases in social emotional skills, knowledge of postsecondary education, and educational intentions. These increases were evident despite the pandemic. The presenters will emphasize how the research informed practice to create a continuous improvement loop that provided insights into the needs of students over the course of the pandemic.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand the research foundation of Career & College Clubs curriculum.
- Identify important trends reflected by the data on social emotional skills, knowledge of postsecondary education, and educational intentions.
- Discuss how this research-practice collaboration led to insights about students’ needs and how these lessons were used to improve practice.
- Create strategies to help students prepare for college admissibility using curriculum materials.
64. **Pushing Play on the Game of Life**

*Georgetown East*

What misconceptions do students have about life after high school? In this interactive session, participants will explore a GEAR UP Partner School's student event "The Game of Life." This is an experiential learning event where students explore the decisions they will face when they move from high school to college or begin their careers. In this session, participants move through the Game of Life stations, discuss the advantages and challenges of implementing this event, and develop a plan to implement it at their own sites.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Experience a modified version of the Game of Life.
- Discuss challenges of implementing the Game of Life.
- Develop a plan for implementing a Game of Life activity at their own site.

**Presenters:**
- Mariah Warren, Professional Development Coordinator, K20 Center, GEAR UP for the FUTURE
- Lindsay Williams, Ph.D., Project Director, K20 Center, GEAR UP for the FUTURE
- Lindsay Hawkins, Professional Development Coordinator, K20 Center, GEAR UP MY SUCCESS

65. **Rebooting Family Engagement After the Pandemic: From Surviving to Thriving**

*Jefferson East*

Drawing from GEAR UP’s asset-based approach to family engagement, this facilitated dialogue will share strategies that foster sustainable Family Engagement systems linked to students’ academic achievement. Participants will explore the various ways to use assessment and evaluation to enhance and refine programs to remain responsive to the needs of our communities. Participants will learn to leverage GEAR UP partnerships to expand and enhance district-wide Family and Community Engagement systems.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand how to align Family and Community Engagement systems and the Career Preparedness Systems Framework through the use of a Community Schools Approach in order to overcome existing barriers to the educational achievement of our students.
- Utilize data obtained through needs and assets assessments to enhance their family education systems, build the capacity of the Family Engagement teams and adapt to the rapidly changing needs of communities.
- Utilize data obtained through needs and assets assessments to enhance their family education systems, build the capacity of the Family Engagement teams and adapt to the rapidly changing needs of communities.

**Presenters:**
- Araceli Huerta, Community School Coordinator, AUHSD
- Carlos Hernandez, Director, Community Schools, Family and Community Engagement, AUHSD
- Natalie Gonzalez, Family Engagement Coordinator, CSUF GEAR UP
- Marcelina Hernandez, Parent, CSUF GEAR UP
66. **Seeing it Before you Believe It: Creating Motivating Experiences for Students**  
*Lincoln West*

By creating one-of-a-kind opportunities, the Heart of Texas GEAR UP is providing their cohort unique experiences that open their eyes to what is available to them to help them fulfill their potential for success. The **Presenters** will share how they have implemented programs and experiences ranging from academics to athletics that align with the mission of their grant as well as the wants and needs of their students and families. Participants will engage in an activity to begin planning how they will examine the needs in their own cohort and brainstorm unique ways to meet them.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Develop an understanding of what classifies an experience as unique for students and families.
- Identify the needs of the students and families they serve.
- Brainstorm ways to implement these experiences with their grant's cohort.

**Presenters:**  
Kelli Armstrong, Coordinator, Heart of Texas GEAR UP  
Nicolas Harris, Outreach Specialist, Heart of Texas GEAR UP

67. **Selecting Engaged Partners via a Mini RFP Process**  
*Tenleytown West*

We all want schools that are as excited about engaging with GEAR UP as we are about serving students. In this session, Pennsylvania GEAR UP will explore the process of creating a mini-RFP for selecting districts that have a desire to fully support GEAR UP in their schools. We’ll share what worked and didn’t work through our process, as well as tools and timelines to get you started. If you are writing your next GEAR UP grant or selecting new partners, we hope to leave you with ways to select schools that will be true partners in your work.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand how to develop and implement a mini-RFP process for interested school districts or partners.
- Identify the pros and cons of implementing an RFP process by way of example through the Pennsylvania GEAR UP Program.
- Identify the importance of partnering with districts and community partners for GEAR UP to maximize potential.

**Presenters:**  
Amber Kelly, Program Manager, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, PA GEAR UP: Reach for the Future  
Christy King, Ed.D., Associate Director/Internal Evaluator, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, PA GEAR UP: Reach for the Future  
Katrina Eady, Director, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, PA GEAR UP Reach for the Future

68. **Student to Students: Using Students Ambassadors on College Campuses in the 7th year**  
*Cabinet*

In the seventh year, GEAR UP Virginia placed Student Ambassadors at 40 campuses in Virginia including community colleges, public and private four-year universities. First year GEAR UP 2020 graduates served as near peer information hubs to help promote on-campus programs, FAFSA information, and GEAR UP information. Attendees will learn how to establish college contacts, and how the Student Ambassadors were selected, trained, and coached to assist first year GEAR UP college students during the COVID pandemic. Presenters will engage attendees in how to establish their own near peer program in the seventh year.
Learning Objectives:
- Establish a college contact to collaborate with Student Ambassadors.
- Implement a Student Ambassador program at the college level including how to select and train near peer mentors.
- Engage Student Ambassadors to serve as leaders and mentors for their classmates including text messaging and creating a GEAR UP program on their campus.

Presenters:
Melissa Benavidez, College Transition Specialist, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, GEAR UP Virginia
Stacey Garnett, Fiscal and Administrative Specialist, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, GEAR UP Virginia
Linda Staylor, Partnership Specialist, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, GEAR UP Virginia
Taylor Morgan, Student Ambassador, GEAR UP Virginia

69. Tailgates and Touchdowns

Kalorama

What happens when you take two high school rivalries and combine a leadership project and a family engagement event under the rural Friday night lights? The COVID-19 pandemic has made in-person family engagement even more difficult than previous years. Meeting families where they are has always been a priority and during the pandemic those places were limited. Join us as we take a deep dive into how GEAR UP SOAR utilized the Friday night lights to reach families and lift educational aspirations in their rural community.

Learning Objectives:
- Explore the capacity of cross-collaboration to bring students and their families together.
- Identify ways to actively seek students and families.
- Engage and plan strategies to cultivate civic engagement.

Presenters:
Christian Callihan, Project Director, GEAR UP Promise Zone, Berea College, GEAR UP SOAR
Kaitlyn Miller, Program Manager - IHE Success, Partners for Education, Berea College, GEAR UP SOAR

70. Using Continuous Improvement Science to Drive GEAR UP Decisions

Van Ness

In this facilitated dialogue, we will explore how to leverage a continuous improvement framework to build GEAR UP capacity, specifically around using actionable data and implementing continuous improvement protocols. Building on the work of the Arizona Meta Network, we will learn how the use of data visualizations, including p-charts, has helped to increase FAFSA and college application completion. With the support of the Meta Network staff, ASU GEAR UP has established a data routine that allows for a more comprehensive analysis of the impact of programming and services, which drives decision-making about whether to adopt, adapt or abandon future efforts.

Learning Objectives:
- Gain a greater understanding of how continuous improvement protocols can be used to identify and spread best practices.
- Use data visualization, specifically p-charts, to identify bright spots within your GEAR UP model.
- Consult with peers on ways to enhance your data routine.

Presenters:
Jennifer Murphy, Ph.D., Executive Director, Arizona State University GEAR UP
71. **Using Data in Advising to “Lift” Completion Likelihood**

*Cardozo*

For students pursuing a postsecondary education, where they go is as important as whether they go. High schools can (and should) incorporate this knowledge and more prominently advise students that where they matriculate can have a substantial impact on their likelihood of attaining a postsecondary degree. This is conventional wisdom, but quantifying it is less common. The Vela Institute and NCAN examined the matriculation patterns of a large sample of students to explore if students plausibly had alternative pathways that might have represented a higher likelihood of eventual degree attainment. Spoiler alert: They did have alternatives, and the effect of attending them was potentially very large. This project makes a simple assertion with profound implications for practice: The advising high schools provide can change students’ postsecondary pathways and increase their likelihood of postsecondary completion. Students have options, and it is within the power of high schools and those who work within them to connect students to their best options following high school graduation. This interactive session will present study results examining the relationship between student characteristics and completion rates. Presenters will provide relevant insight and practical tips for the GEAR UP community based on study results. This session is for coordinators and advisors interested in sharing their experiences of student postsecondary success and learning how EPSC can provide guidance for student advising.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn about using postsecondary completion rates in advising and how doing so supports the purpose of GEAR UP.
- Explore study findings of institutional completion rates using IPEDS data.
- Recognize how various advising scenarios are informed from an analysis of institutional completion rate and school and district data.

**Presenters:**
- **Shawn Bergman, Ph.D.,** Kulyynych/Cline Distinguished Professor of Psychology; Director of Research, Appalachian State University / Vela Institute
- **Bill DeBaun,** Director of Data and Evaluation, National College Attainment Network
- **Marcie Mills Sample,** Director, Washington Student Achievement Council, Washington State GEAR UP

72. **You Belong Here: Using Positive Psychology to Address Impostor Experiences Experience in 1st-Gen Students**

*Georgetown West*

GEAR UP professionals spend entire grant cycles helping historically underrepresented students find their places on college campuses. However, the need for support does not stop after matriculation. Research has shown that First-Generation College Students are disproportionately more affected by the Impostor Phenomenon (IP), causing high levels of self-doubt and anxiety, especially during times of transition. This puts these students at a higher risk for attrition than their continuing-generation peers, as they question whether they belong in college. In this interactive session, based on literature and new research, participants will learn strategies to help students combat impostor experiences and internalize success.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify the components of the Impostor Phenomenon and the impostor cycle.
- Recognize the compounding factors of the first-generation identity when paired with Impostor Phenomenon.
- Navigate methods for addressing Impostor Phenomenon and techniques to help students celebrate and internalize successes.
**Presenters:**
Megan Breaux, Partnership/Data Management Coordinator, Lafayette GEAR UP  
Aaron Esters, College and Career Coach, Lafayette GEAR UP  
Traci Aucoin, Project Director, Lafayette GEAR UP

**12:15 pm – 1:00 pm**  
**Networking Lunch**  
*International Ballroom*

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**  
**Tuesday Luncheon Plenary**  
*What’s Next? Creating an Atlas of Hope in Education*  
*International Ballroom*

*Julian Vazquez Heilig, Ph.D., Dean, College of Education, University of Kentucky*

It goes without saying, but recent years have been tough for educators. The convergence of social and economic uncertainty, ideological tensions, the traumas experienced by our students, and the ongoing impact of the pandemic presents a constellation of obstacles for us to navigate. Yet despite these challenges, we have an opportunity to reflect on and reclaim our fundamental work so that our GEAR UP mission can flourish in the years to come.

As an award-winning leader, teacher, researcher and Dean of the College of Education at the University of Kentucky, Dr. Julian Vasquez Heilig will share insights from his years as a champion for equity in education. In exploring the shifts and trends that are shaping K12 and higher education, Dr. Vasquez Heilig will address the foundational actions we must take to redefine access and opportunity for the better.

**2:15 pm – 3:30 pm**  
**Tuesday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions | Block 5**

73. **Adding POP to Summer Programs: Purposeful Opportunities with Partners**  
*Lincoln East*

Thinking we have to ‘do it all’ is a common stressor with GEAR UP staff. In this facilitated discussion participants explore partnering with local, regional, and other federal programs to ‘share the load’ and provide expanded summer opportunities for students as well as strengthening community partnerships. In this highly interactive session, participants engage in an energetic presentation of design and background elements focusing on inspirations, highlights and pitfalls, equally interspersed with a variety of small group activities including speed planning, idea exchange, and simulations with a planning template leading to customizing their own summer program design.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Visualize partnership options for student summer programs through broadening targets and strengthening strategic relationships.
- Exchange design and partnering ideas with other GEAR UP and outside programs through interactive planning.
- Outline summer program planning using the session design template covering from broad focus statements to detailed checklists.
Presenters:
Terry Hosler, Student Leadership Coordinator, Partners for Education at Berea College GEAR UP
Holly Branscum, Project Director, UBMS1, Partners for Education at Berea College GEAR UP
Dara Evans, Program Manager, Partners for Education at Berea College GEAR UP

74. An Examination of COVID-19’s Effects on Grade 12 Students’ Postsecondary Attitudes and Actions

Jay
COVID-19’s impact on college enrollment rates is well documented. However, research has not uncovered the potential reasons for the declines, such as changes in attitudes about college, behavioral changes regarding intermediate steps or broader changes in students’ plans. In our lecture, we will share findings examining how COVID-19 affected each of these outcomes differently and the resulting strategies we implemented. Attendees will discuss how to incorporate these findings into their programs.

Learning Objectives:
- Understand how COVID-19 impacted students’ college perceptions, behaviors, and plans.
- Learn how programming was updated to reflect research findings.
- Explore ways to enhance current programming to support students’ long-term postsecondary goals.

Presenters:
Jennifer Grossman, Ph.D., Coordinator of Research and Evaluation, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, West Virginia GEAR UP
Samantha Spinney, Ph.D., Senior Manager, Youth & Adult Education, ICF

75. Arizona GEAR UP: A Statewide College-Access Partner Framework

Gunston
Arizona GEAR UP will share how our project design established partnerships with community-based college-access programs that provide matching funds and support the expansion of services to students in the education pipeline from middle-grades through first year of postsecondary education, with an emphasis on closing equity gaps.

Participants will learn how Arizona GEAR UP selected college-access partners through an RFP process, how partner services are selected and focus on high-need areas, and how federal funds are leveraged to reach match requirements. Participants will receive access to RFP templates, a partner service mapping tool, and partner scope of work & budget templates.

Learning Objectives:
- Learn the Arizona GEAR UP college-access partner identification and selection process.
- Learn the Arizona GEAR UP system used to identify and leverage match.
- Learn the Arizona GEAR UP process of implementing, monitoring, and sustaining the partner framework.

Presenters:
Robert Neese, Director, Northern Arizona University, Arizona GEAR UP: The Five E’s of Equity
Andrea González Sotelo, Assistant Director, Northern Arizona University, Arizona GEAR UP: The Five E’s of Equity
Ramona Mellott, Ph.D., Dean, College of Education / AZGU Principal Investigator, Northern Arizona University, Arizona GEAR UP: The Five E’s of Equity
76. **Career & College Clubs | Importance of GEAR UP Clubs and the Role of Student Leadership**  
*Tenleytown East*

Clubs and extracurricular activities come in many different forms – sports, student government, internships, chess, choir, and the list goes on. Regardless of the form, being a part of a club and participating in extracurricular activities can be invaluable for our GEAR UP students. Studies and research have concluded that students who participate in clubs experience many positive effects like better grades, reduced behavior challenges, and increased aspirations to become successful adults. And if we layer student leadership within these clubs and activities, the impact is even greater. Come and learn about why clubs are so important and how you can create the club experience for your GEAR UP students.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn the importance of GEAR UP clubs to student success.
- Explore pathways for creating GEAR UP clubs and the club experience.
- Learn how to incorporate student leadership into your clubs and activities.

**Presenters:**  
*Kelly Pappas*, Director of Career & College Clubs, NCCEP  
*Lauren Foley*, Associate Director of Professional Development, NCCEP

77. **Change is Inevitable, Failure Doesn’t Have to Be: Applying Formative Assessment to Program Evaluation**  
*Rock Creek*

Formative evaluation principles provide us with the tools to recognize a need to pause and adjust strategies, specifically identifying those moments in which we may not be achieving our intended results. Participants will explore the principles of formative assessment through role-play scenarios, emphasizing reflection and application in real-world situations. Presenters will also share experiences of adapting instructional programs to illustrate the key principles of formative assessment and how to best apply these principles to your instruction. In this session, we will focus on tools and strategies for making in-the-moment adjustments to best achieve the instructional goals of your grant. We recommend that you bring a device such as a laptop or iPad to this session.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Define the term “formative assessment”.
- Describe grant-specific scenarios that can benefit from formative assessment principles.
- Apply principles of formative assessment to grant-specific instructional programs.

**Presenters:**  
*Lindsey Link*, Student Learning Designer, K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal at the University of Oklahoma, GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS  
*Keiana Cross*, Online Learning Designer, K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal at the University of Oklahoma  
*James Morris*, Director of Instructional Design for GEAR UP Grants, K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal at the University of Oklahoma, GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS

78. **College Access During the Pandemic: Strategies for Making it Work**  
*Fairchild*

Early in 2020, the emergence of COVID 19 forced colleges to pivot from traditional approaches regarding instruction, recruitment, and candidate selection to new and innovative solutions, many of them virtual—and foreign to underserved students in the college-going process. Out of this challenging time, however, creative opportunities have emerged for students to engage meaningfully. This session draws on extensive interviews with higher education leaders and college access professionals to examine
fundamental changes in access and provide strategies for helping students find and connect with
colleges, prepare credentials in an increasingly test-optimal environment, compete for financial
assistance, and tell their stories.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn strategies for helping students take advantage of virtual outreach efforts by colleges to
  search for and engage in meaningful relationships with decision-makers in the admission
  process.
- Develop an understanding of/appreciation for test optional admission, as well as strategies for
  using all elements of the application process to present credentials in a thematically cohesive
  application.
- Acquire a consumer perspective and layperson’s language regarding cost, affordability and
  financial aid that can be useful in giving families confidence, reassurance, and guidance in the
  application process.

**Presenters:**
Peter Van Buskirk, President, Best College Fit
Silvia Clark, Project Director, Washington State University, Tri-Cities GEAR UP, GEAR UP One Vision
Partnership

79. Design Your Own Materials: Join the National Canva Team
*Georgetown West*
Design is incredibly important when communicating to the communities we serve, but it is often the last
thing we have time to think about. This workshop will help you understand the basics of the design tool,
Canva, free for all non-profits, and the potential to access well-crafted materials from GEAR UP
programs around the country. Participants will be added to the national GEAR UP Canva team, where
anyone who has joined can share their materials and crowdsource ideas and designs. Save time and
resources while also using your creativity to show just how valuable your programming is to the
students and families you serve.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn basic marketing and material design fundamentals.
- Become familiar with the basic tools and uses of Canva Pro.
- Gain access to a place to share and crowd-source ideas and designs for your program.

**Presenters:**
Adriana Eldred, Outreach and Communications Specialist, VSAC GEAR UP GUIDE Program
Jessi Krause Herron, Outreach Counselor, VSAC GEAR UP

80. EOSC GEAR UP and Texas instruments: Bringing Opportunity and Technology to Southeast Oklahoma
*Cabinet*
This presentation will introduce this partnership and showcase hands-on organization, management of
equipment and data, teacher testimonies, summer camp, and more. The goal of this session is to inform
and equip attendees to re-create this opportunity for their own students. This program brings
technology and opportunity to schools that would otherwise be without or have to make hard choices
on what to leave out. Our students have a head start in practical STEM education that will benefit them
in postsecondary education and beyond.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Hands-on program implementation for GEAR UP programs using technology.
- STEM Camp implementation with demonstration, student and teacher testimonies, and a
  question/answer period.
- Discuss how to take this technology out to schools and students during COVID precautions and face to face classrooms.

**Presenters:**
Loran Mayes, Professional Development Coordinator, Eastern Oklahoma State College
Marco Gonzalez, B.S. Mathematics, Technology Consultant, Texas Instruments

### 81. Exploration Lab: Navigating the GEAR UP Match and Q&A with ED

*International Terrace*

Operationalizing the GEAR UP match requirement is a persistent challenge for nearly every GEAR UP program and has been made more difficult by the pandemic. While the match relief provided by the CARES Act has been welcome, that relief isn’t going to be permanent. Join this Exploration Lab to join your GEAR UP colleagues in a lightly facilitated conversation designed to explore known challenges and potential solutions for securing match. Following the peer-to-peer dialogue, please join U.S. Department of Education GEAR UP staff for a moderated question and answer period to address your burning questions.

**What is an Exploration Lab?** Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief “Lab Report” after the conference.

**Who should attend?** This seminar is ideally suited for GEAR UP leaders, coordinators, finance staff, or anyone who is asked to generate and document match.

**What should I expect?** Come ready to participate! Exploration Labs are highly interactive. Facilitators will guide the group through conversations and activities to uncover solutions and new ideas.

**Presenters:**
Jamie Lewis, Business Officer, GEAR UP Alabama
Amanda Whittington, Assistant Director, Finance & Compliance, GEAR UP NC Appalachian Partnership
Alex Chough, President, NCCEP
Craig Pooler, Program Director, Talent Search and GEAR UP, U.S. Department of Education

### 82. From an Isolated Staff to a Fully Integrated Network: How an Interactive Online Tool Helped Indiana Holmead

Has your grant ever struggled with leadership transition, communication issues, or aligning efforts with objectives? In this interactive workshop we will identify and discuss common implementation roadblocks GEAR UP grants experience. Learn how Indiana GEAR UP addressed these common roadblocks through development of an Activity Tracker. Participants will explore the tool and brainstorm ways to apply this tool to their own grant.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify and discuss common implementation roadblocks GEAR UP grants experience.
- Learn about how Indiana GEAR UP uses an Activity Tracker to address roadblocks.
- Explore the Activity Tracker and brainstorm modifications for application to their grant.

**Presenters:**
Tabitha Cinowski, Director of Operations, Indiana GEAR UP Purdue University, Indiana GEAR UP
Steve Heinold, Associate Director & Director of School Programs, Indiana GEAR UP Purdue University, Indiana GEAR UP

### 83. GEARing Up STEM Goals in Kentucky by Career Exposure!

*Lincoln West*

Students can’t be what they can’t see! Through GEAR UP grants, rural KY students see careers without leaving school using a proven STEM career awareness program. Principals say Learning Blade, “Allows
students to see jobs out there they may not have known existed. It gives them lessons in social studies, science, math, and language in each career. Exposure is the key. There are a lot of jobs out there students just don't know about.” Come experience a proven STEM career awareness program inspiring GEAR UP students to pursue their dreams of postsecondary degrees or credentials. What was alarming, is that when this GEAR UP grant started, 95% of the students reported they did not know that a STEM worker did! During this session, participants will explore unique strategies in Learning Blade to engage students in STEM and CS career awareness. Session participants will experience five activities including online lessons, design thinking, hands-on, 3D printing, and parent activities.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Experience a proven and successful strategy for engaging and inspiring students around STEM and computer science career path education that reinforces college and career readiness through academically aligned practice problems.
- Understand the implementation strategy that enabled 100+ schools across 5 grants to rapidly adopt new technology for STEM and computer science learning.
- Articulate the missing puzzle pieces in students' STEM and computer science career awareness and identify remedies for increased interest and awareness in the STEM and computer science pathways.

**Presenters:**
Linda Stone, Associate Director, STEM Initiatives, Berea GEAR UP, Promise Zone
Sheila Boyington, CEO, Learning Blade

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**84. Grab a University Partner: How to Build a STEM Summer Camp with a Partner Organization from the U Georgetown East**

This session will outline the process and takeaways from developing GEAR UP Summer 2022, in which we hosted 4 STEM-focused summer camps with in-person options. We will share how to find committed university departments, develop a shared curriculum that is both rigorous and age appropriate, and build a stronger connection between K-12 and higher education. If possible, participants should bring their own electronic device that can access Internet to do research.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify opportunities for meaningful partnership with their local university STEM department.
- Learn how to effectively collaborate with university departments to develop age-appropriate programming.
- Draft an example timeline for partnering with a university STEM department.

**Presenters:**
Kristen Yip, STEM Curriculums and Program Manager, GEAR UP Achievers
Danica Hendrickson, Associate Director for Education & Workforce Engagement, UW Clean Energy Institute and UW MEM-C

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**85. Increasing Students' Career Preparedness: Pathways, Mentoring, and Internships Jefferson East**

During this facilitated dialogue, participants will learn how the Anaheim Union High School District has leveraged its partnership with CSUF GEAR UP to increase students' career preparedness by linking career pathways with high-quality mentoring and internship programs. Through the partnership, AUHSD is implementing a comprehensive approach to expanding students’ career options that meet local workforce needs. In addition, participants will brainstorm plans for developing high-quality career mentoring and internship programs aligned with professional career industry pathways. Finally, participants will also develop strategies pertinent to the successful implementation of their planned program.
Learning Objectives:
- Develop strategies for collaborative educational planning that integrate career pathway completion, completion of college entrance requirements, dual enrollment, and work-based learning grounded in students’ college and career plans.
- Identify and discuss strategies for developing a work-based learning program, including business outreach, career event planning, and implementing internships that function both virtually and in-person.
- Examine different types of curricula that assist students to seek their own career conversations and internship opportunities.

Presenters:
Scott Reindl, 21st Career Readiness Program Coordinator, AUHSD
Maryjo Cooke, Director, Innovative Mentoring Experience, AUHSD
Oscar Garcia, Academic Coordinator, CSUF GEAR UP
Joshua Bilbrew, Director, CSUF GEAR UP

Van Ness
This interactive discussion will explore how students were impacted by the learning disruptions resulting from COVID. The session will specify situations in which students may have experienced a greater learning impact and recovery. Evidence will be provided to indicate the usefulness of specific learning recovery method and interventions. presenters and attendees will share their experiences surrounding COVID learning impact along with their successes regarding COVID learning rejuvenation. This session is intended for any educators who wants to gain more information about the impact of COVID on learning and expand their options of learning recovery.

Learning Objectives:
- Identify the extent to which students from various demographic and academic backgrounds experienced greater math and reading learning impact.
- Explore the extent to which learning recovery methods have been successful in mitigating the effects of COVID learning impact.
- Learn and discuss the various learning recovery methods to understand which methods are most useful in certain situations.

Presenters:
Shawn Bergman, Ph.D., Kulynych/Cline Distinguished Professor of Psychology; Director of Research, Appalachian State University / Vela Institute
Sam Nelson, Director, Capacity Management, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, GEAR UP Illinois

87. Lessons from the Fields: A Look into the GEAR UP Migrant Farmworker Journey
Kalorama
Often referred to as the silent population, migrant farmworkers carry experiences and skills that can enable them to persist and succeed through their educational and career journey. While this is the goal that the students and their families envision, it cannot be done without a strong support system of caring personnel within their school and community. This session will showcase a diverse panel of individuals who have worked as migrant farmworkers and have a passion for servicing one of the most vulnerable populations. Panelists will include a GEAR UP facilitator who during the summer migrates and works alongside GEAR UP students and their parents in the fields of Illinois; a district migrant director who has been recognized for his work in engaging migrant families through innovative ways; a GEAR UP student who will share her experiences and aspirations; and a GEAR UP Superintendent who will attest
to the work his district does to help all migrant students. Each will share practical advice and best practices to better serve migrant farmworker families.

Learning Objectives:
- Hear first-hand testimonials of migrant farmworker families and reflect on the struggles, successes, and advice that each panelist shares.
- Engage in dialogue with the panelists to better understand the needs of the migrant farmworker families.
- Brainstorm ways to capitalize on the skills the migrant farmworker students attain while working in the fields, and how those skills can be utilized in their academic, social, and emotional success.

Presenters:
Melissa Lopez, Administrator, Region One Education Service Center GEAR UP
Raquel Salinas, GEAR UP Facilitator, Grulla High School, Region One GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set
George Lopez, Director of Federal Migrant Education Programs, Weslaco ISD, Region One GEAR UP: College Now, Career Connected
Alejos Salazar, Lasara ISD, Superintendent
Ximena Ventura, Lasara ISD, GEAR UP Student

88. Level Up Your Virtual Presentation & Student Experience

Show
Believe it or not, virtual learning and experiences are here to stay. Let's continue to show up in a big, engaging, and high-energy way by making your workshops and meetings fun, impactful, and just what your scholars and families need to succeed. Virtual learning and experiences can be an engaging tool you effectively use going forward. In this interactive discussion, you will learn how to level up your virtual session or make a few tweaks to continue meeting your scholars' educational, social, and emotional needs while keeping their attention.

Learning Objectives:
- Discover several ways to deliver a virtual meeting, workshop, or experience while keeping the attention of your scholars.
- Identify big and small tweaks that you can immediately implement during your next virtual meeting or event.
- Identify how virtual learning can complement how you help your scholars and families well into the future.

Presenters:
Rockell Bartoli, Professional Speaker, Author & Scholarship Coach, The Scholar Budget

89. Parent Engagement: Getting the Job Done Through COVID

Jefferson West
In this presentation, we will provide informative information on ways our grant could provide family engagement to students and parents through COVID. There are so many procedures and different practices to document GEAR UP activities, through the pandemic, it is even harder to provide services successfully. Grantees receive funding and then must implement services while also following COVID restrictions. Learn how our grant went above and beyond to reach families to provide services. This session will provide answers to questions, examples on documenting the services, and interactions to discuss other possible resources.

Learning Objectives:
- Gain knowledge on successful strategies to provide services to families during the pandemic.
- Discuss the planning process to follow all COVID restrictions while providing services to parents and students.
- Network with other professionals to gain strategies to better build the grant's "family engagement" services.

**Presenters:**
Dara Self, Project Director, EOSC GEAR UP, Ignite Belief
Tara Martin, Assistant Project Director, EOSC GEAR UP, Ignite Belief
Helen Scott, Associate Project Office Manager, EOSC GEAR UP, Ignite Belief

90. **PROVE | CCREC: Initial Results from a Multi-Grant Evaluation**

*Tenleytown West*

In 2012, a group of GEAR UP grantees formally established the College and Career Readiness Evaluation Consortium (CCREC). Over the last decade, these grantees have collected and reported student-level service data following students from middle school through college. In 2022, CCREC completed the first analytic report on these data, a longitudinal, multi-grant evaluation that tells the story of how student and family services connect to outcomes, including FAFSA completion, high school graduation, and postsecondary enrollment. Join us for a conversation about the evaluation results and implications.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn about CCREC.
- Understand the results from a multi-grant evaluation of the relationship between GEAR UP services and student outcomes.
- Examine the implications of the evaluation results on the GEAR UP community for the future.

**Presenters:**
Chrissy Tillery, Vice President of Research and Evaluation, NCCEP
Thomas Cech, Senior Data Scientist, NCCEP
Jackie Mania, Director of Research and Evaluation, NCCEP

91. **Virtual Student Internships**

*Cardozo*

Internships provide students with an opportunity to have an authentic experience with a career that matches their academic and personal interests. Completing an internship allows students to develop strong teamwork skills balanced with the ability to work independently. Students also gain industry insights, build a networking portfolio, bolster their resume, gain employment directly from a positive experience, build confidence, understand business practices firsthand, and more. However, not all internships can be executed on-site. Scheduling and commuting issues make these worthwhile experiences unobtainable for many students in high school, especially under-served students. One viable solution is to establish virtual internship opportunities with your partners. Hear from Duval County GEAR UP on how they partnered with MAD-learn to offer their students more experiences than were available locally.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand what a virtual student internship is and how to request this of their business partners.
- Learn about the experiences that students can gain through a virtual internship.
- Connect with each other, with MAD-learn, and with other businesses to learn about open internship positions for their students.

**Presenters:**
Alefiya Master, Founder & CEO, MAD-learn
Traci Zamor, School Counseling Specialist, Duval County Public Schools GEAR UP Program
92. **Alternative Paths to Paying for College: How the Military can make College a Reality**  
*Fairchild*

Are you interested in learning about alternative options to help your students finance college? If so, this dynamic workshop is for you! During this session participants will hear the story of a student who joined the military as a high school senior, attended college soon after high school graduation and earned a bachelor’s degree for free! Participants will learn about the various military options that can help support their GEAR UP grant’s college-going culture. Through a facilitated conversation, we will discuss how students can simultaneously serve their country and attend college, including the financial options available through the military. Finally, participants will receive an advising timeline that aligns with proactive strategies to better support students who are interested in pursuing college while enlisting in the military.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Describe and outline the many military options that can support a college-going culture.
- Articulate the financial aid options that the military can offer a college-going student.
- Discuss strategies to support students who are interested in the military as a vehicle to attend and finance college.

**Presenters:**  
LaCretia Wooten, Project Manager/Director, University of Kansas GEAR UP Diploma+  
Meghan Ecker-Lyster, Ph.D., Director of Research, Evaluation & Dissemination, University of Kansas

93. **Challenging Social Inequities Through Food Justice and Community Partnerships**  
*Jefferson West*

CSUF GEAR UP and MACC partnered to foster students’, families’, and the community’s knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices, food nourishment, and community building. The Magnolia Agriscience Community Center (MACC) is an urban agricultural oasis that aims to build a social and cultural shift by creating job training skills, experiences and education on sustainable food practices and ecological issues within Anaheim Union High School District. In this facilitated dialogue, participants will craft a plan and identify at least three achievable steps to enhance community partnerships and promote environmental sustainability and health practices.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Facilitate students’ active participation in solving community-based problems, research solutions, and design action plans.
- Define environmental principles and concepts to link their understanding to current issues in their community.
- Identify three concrete opportunities to foster student entrepreneurship to develop business models that are eco-friendly and sustainable.

**Presenters:**  
Michael Matsuda, Superintendent, AUHSD  
Carlos Hernandez, Director, Community Schools, Family and Community Engagement, AUHSD  
Sabina Giakoumis, Science Department Chair and Teacher, AUHSD  
Amy Kwon, STEAM Coordinator, AUHSD  
Rachel Nankervis, Assistant Director, CSUF GEAR UP
94. **Math + TI + Summer = GEAR UP 4 LA Bridge Program Success**  

*Cabinet*

GEAR UP 4 LA will focus on a Summer Bridge Program for rising 9th and 10th grade students in six Los Angeles Unified schools. Using the Jaime Escalante model of instruction for mathematics which includes highly engaging, active learning and thinking via teamwork, teachers act as coaches for the teams. Based on real-world, engaging examples that apply advanced math concepts in a new way, Texas Instruments calculators and equipment was a natural partner. This interactive session will provide attendees with an overview of the instructional model, student testimonials, and data to illustrate the impact on mathematics learning and achievement.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Provide an overview of the GEAR UP 4 LA Summer Bridge Program at six sites in Los Angeles Unified School District.
- Encourage attendees to engage in discussions/activities focused on mathematics instruction in the summer program.
- Detail outcomes from the Summer Bridge Program that have had a lasting-effect on students’ attitudes about mathematics.

**Presenters:**  
Jill Manning, Ed.D., GEAR UP Program Coordinator, GEAR UP 4 LA  
Brian Dunnicliffe, Education Technology Consultant, Texas Instruments, Inc

95. **National GEAR UP Week: Leveling Up Your National GEAR UP Week Celebration**  

*Georgetown East*

We have celebrated the success of the GEAR UP community since 1999. Now, in 2022, how do we level up our celebrations and share everything that our students, families, alumni, educators, and partners do to close the educational equity gap in the U.S.? Join this session to revisit tried and true planning strategies, learn new ways to engage your communities, and to take home an actionable plan to celebrate National GEAR UP Week. This session is for directors planning to engage their local partners, coordinators planning to implement programming at schools, and anyone who is eager to elevate the #GEARUPworks message.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify your goals for celebrating National GEAR UP Week.
- Discover new strategies to celebrate.
- Begin planning your celebration.

**Presenters:**  
Emily Crawford, Director of Government Relations, NCCEP  
Meghan Cave, Director of College Pathways, Colorado GEAR UP  
Rachel Sanchez, Education Specialist, Region One GEAR UP  
Adriana Eldred, Outreach and Communications Specialist, VSAC GEAR UP GUIDE Program

96. **No-Cost Extension Possibilities**  

*Lincoln West*

Wondering if a no-cost extension makes sense for your grant? Well then, this session is for you! Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia will share their experiences requesting a no-cost extension as well as the types of services they provided during their extension year. You’ll have the opportunity to discuss in small and large groups whether an extension makes sense for your grant and possibilities for what the extension might look like. Individually, you’ll have the opportunity to generate the beginnings of a no-cost extension request.
Learning Objectives:
- Determine if a no-cost extension makes sense for a grant.
- Generate ideas about possible no-cost extension services.
- Create a sample no-cost extension request.

Presenters:
Christy King, Ed.D., Internal Evaluator/Associate Director, Shippensburg University, PA State GEAR UP
Katrina Eady, Director, Shippensburg University, PA State GEAR UP
Carlos Bing, Director, College Access Programs, Ohio Department of Higher Education
Erin McGrath, Assistant Director of College Access & PK-12 Outreach, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, GEAR UP Virginia

97. Open Lab: Amplifying Voices of GEAR UP with Qualitative Methods: Stories and Visuals as Data
International Terrace
In this Open Lab, participants will discuss the use of qualitative methods beyond short-answer responses on feedback forms. The use of storytelling, interviews, focus groups, and photo methods in GEAR UP evaluation will be explored. Open Labs are an opportunity for networking and informal conversations within the GEAR UP community.

Learning Objectives:
- Networking: connect with others in the GEAR UP community.

Presenters:
Jackie Mania, Director of Research and Evaluation, NCCEP

98. Rightsizing Expectations: Defining the Personal Finance Ecosystem
Shaw
The Personal Finance Ecosystem is a visual roadmap laying out the foundation that underpins an individual’s level of financial well-being. It gives context to the elements that comprise well-being and right-sizes expectations for what educational interventions and efforts realistically can achieve. In this presentation, we will lay out the Ecosystem framework and review how educators can use the model to fit their work into the broader landscape, and to recognize the value of the various approaches. Attendees will understand the complexity of what it takes to build financial knowledge and skill, including the many components and systemic limitations in play.

Learning Objectives:
- Understand the interplay of complex factors influencing financial well-being.
- Discuss how this ecosystem is relevant to their work and their organizations.
- Surface questions for greater research and exploration in the personal finance space.

Presenters:
Mary Hoch, Senior Manager, Insights & Impact, National Endowment for Financial Education
Emma Donahue, Manager, Policy & Advocacy, National Endowment for Financial Education

99. Science, Technology, and Math, Oh My: How to Plan a Successful STEM camp
Rock Creek
As demands for coders, robotic engineers, and creative minds continue to increase, how can GEAR UP programs integrate these subjects into their curriculum to reach students and parents? In this session, participants will learn how EOSC GEAR UP developed and hosted their first STEM camp and how to adapt these strategies to other GEAR UP programs. Attendees will receive a STEM camp starter toolkit along with parent engagement ideas and actual hands-on STEM activities.

Learning Objectives:
- Identify strategies and tools necessary to create a successful STEM camp.
Discuss how to adapt these strategies to succeed within any GEAR UP program.
Engage in hands-on learning STEM activities and ideas.

**Presenters:**
Denise Lovell, GEAR UP Program Office Manager, EOSC GEAR UP
Tonya White, Education Coordinator, EOSC GEAR UP
Amanda Wooley, Education Coordinator, EOSC GEAR UP
Patrick Keith, Education Coordinator, EOSC GEAR UP

100. SEL In Action: Using Motivational Interviewing to Elicit Behavior Change
*Gunston*
This interactive facilitated dialogue will offer a unique perspective to social-emotional learning (SEL) and how to cultivate student self-reflection, investigate the quality of relationships we cultivate, address how to effectively engage in collaborative conversations to produce student-driven planning, and explore how to provide change-based feedback to students. Key topics to be addressed include Johari’s Window in relation to exploring social-emotional learning methods, metacognition, and the principles of Motivational Interviewing as a means to reinforce behavior change in students. Session participants will walk away with research-based practical activities for use with students in a variety of educational settings.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Explore existing research behind relationships, relevance, and the connection of both to student success.
- Gain a working understanding of relationship-building strategies as well as the principles of Motivational Interviewing (MI) to better recognize change talk in students, parents, and colleagues.
- Engage in interactive activities/exercises that will solidify/enhance collaborative conversation skills with students, parents, and colleagues to elicit behavior change (academic and personal-social).

**Presenters:**
Jennifer Murphy, Ph.D., Executive Director, Arizona State University GEAR UP
Ricardo Villa-Sanchez, Coordinator Sr., Arizona State University GEAR UP

101. Social Emotional Learning: A Key to Family Well-Being
*Kalorama*
During this session, we will share best practices and lessons learned from a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for Families series, which was delivered via Zoom to families in the Region One area. There were 3 areas that were shared: SEL 101 and understanding our brains, maintaining composure, and building optimism. These lessons were selected from materials at ACT, CASEL and other resources. The purpose was to provide families with the knowledge on SEL, Brain 101, how to maintain composure and strategies for increasing optimism, and the importance of creating a family plan to deal with stress during the quarantine. A Pre/Post assessment was given to participants to measure growth and impact and the series has continued to be delivered since 2020. Parents who participated in the series will be in attendance to share their insights and experience with this series. Additionally, a lesson will be demonstrated during the session.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Learn about the design of the SEL for family’s series and the implications it had on family well-being.
- Experience a lesson from the SEL for Families series which will provide an opportunity to better understand the areas covered in the series.
- Listen to some of the participants who went through the SEL for Families series and better understand the impact it made on them and their families.

**Presenters:**
Nicole Saenz, Program Assistant, Region One ESC GEAR UP: College Ready, Career Set!
Sylvia Vargas, Education Specialist, Region One Education Service Center, College Now-Career Connected! Partnership Grant

102. Starting Early to Finish Strong: GEAR UP Students Empowered for College & Career Success

*Holmead*

In this interactive session, we will provide proven strategies from the field on developing an effective college and career success program for ALL GEAR UP Students. We will define what exactly college readiness is and how beginning this process early will help students finish strong. Participants will explore the importance of parental engagement in the college readiness process and learn a 5-step plan to ensure college and career success. We will conclude the session engaging all participants in a hands-on activity to develop their college and career success outreach program for ALL their GEAR UP Students!

**Learning Objectives:**
- Discuss best practices on creating a college-going culture at home and how to actively engage parents in the college preparation and transition process. Parents are essential in the college readiness process of all their children.
- Explore proven practices on how students are exploring different career possibilities aligned to regional and state workforce needs. Students can only aspire to become what they know.
- Learn the importance of early college awareness and readiness, while understanding the essential skills and attitudes all students need to achieve college, career, and life success.

**Presenters:**
Maricruz Flores, GEAR UP Site Coordinator-Beethoven, Vanguard Academy GEAR UP Project
Ernesto Villarreal, Executive Director, College 1st Program

103. The Impact of Math Learning Services on Rural Students’ Math Performance

*Cardozo*

Math performance is one of the critical indicators in GEAR UP and is consistently reviewed by Congress to better understand how GEAR UP grants are doing. It is imperative that GEAR UP works to improve students’ math performance, and to study the effectiveness of GU learning services on math outcomes. This presentation will explore the impact of GEAR UP math services on math performance. We will interactively discuss two questions: (1) did ninth graders who used the math services outperform those who did not use the services; and (2) if so, which learning modality (face-to-face, virtual, or a combination of both) could bring more positive impact to math performance.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify the impact of math learning services on rural students’ math performance.
- Differentiate the impact of each math learning mode (virtual, face-to-face, a combination of both) on students’ math performance.
- Investigate and reconstruct math learning services the GEAR UP project has provided or plans to provide to their ninth graders.

**Presenters:**
Jui-Teng Li, GEAR UP Assistant Director Research & Evaluation, Appalachian State University GEAR UP
Corinne Smith, GEAR UP Director, Appalachian State University GEAR UP
Craig Gehring, Founder and CEO, MasteryPrep
Oliver Pope, Officer, MasteryPrep
104. The Power of Peers in Building Resiliency

Jefferson East

In this interactive, team presentation, GEAR UP Kentucky will partner with parenting and youth development expert Dr. Deborah Gilboa (“Dr. G”) to highlight a hybrid, multi-level peer mentoring program that leverages near-peer relationships to develop resilience around the social, emotional, fiscal, and cultural barriers of postsecondary success. Attendees will participate in a sample structured mentoring activity on building skills to improve resiliency, learn strategies for recruiting, selecting, and training student mentors at the secondary and postsecondary levels, and receive an overview of the curriculum including goals, student perspectives, assessment tools and ideas for implementation in GEAR UP schools.

Learning Objectives:
- Understand the research basis forlevering peer mentoring to improve resilience and the strategies for measuring growth in resilience.
- Define and experience the components of a resiliency-focused peer mentoring program.
- Identify and discuss obstacles to implement peer mentoring programs.

Presenters:
Laura Negron, Associate Director of Operations & Development, GEAR UP Kentucky
Deborah Gilboa, MD, Parenting & Youth Development Expert, Ask Dr. G
Amy Tobin, Postsecondary Transition Coordinator, GEAR UP Kentucky

105. The Road to Sustainability: How Relationship-Building Supports the Journey

Georgetown West

The road to college access should not end with the duration of the grant cycle. An important step toward equitable college access is the creation of a sustainability plan for continuing high-impact programs and services beyond GEAR UP. In this interactive session, participants will learn how Lafayette GEAR UP leveraged relationships with community partners and other invested parties to equip and empower their school district with the connections they needed to take ownership of program and service continuation. Participants will access a toolkit and model to support sustainability planning and relationship building across their own communities.

Learning Objectives:
- Identify ways to build efficient programs and services to decrease costs and promote replicability within the community.
- Explore opportunities to integrate services into the community infrastructure.
- Identify ways relationships support project sustainability and how to foster such relationships.

Presenters:
Megan Breaux, Partnership/Data Management Coordinator, Lafayette GEAR UP
Traci Aucoin, Project Director, Lafayette GEAR UP

106. We’re On the Air! Engaging Spanish-Speaking Families Through Partnerships with Local Radio Stations

Lincoln East

In this presentation, GEAR UP team members will share communication strategies for reaching and supporting Spanish-speaking families of cohort students. Specifically, we will discuss developing partnerships with local Spanish radio stations. Programming varies across different media outlets; we will discuss how we get the word out while working within the local media outlets’ parameters, procedures, and routines. We will discuss how to maximize time as short as one minute and how to take advantage of a full-hour interview. We will share our experiences with the who, what, when, where, why, and how of sharing your message on the air.
Learning Objectives:
- Describe the benefits of sharing the GEAR UP message via radio media outlets.
- Identify at least one strategy to maximize on-air time.
- Develop initial plans for their own radio or media partnership implementation or improvements.

Presenters:
Marcia Montague, Ph.D., Co-Director Heart of Texas GEAR UP, Clinical Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University, Heart of Texas GEAR UP
Erik Dorbecker Garcia, Research Specialist I - Site Manager North, Texas A&M University, Heart of Texas GEAR UP

107. What is TN FAFSA Frenzy? Data, Communications, and Statewide Partnership
Tenleytown West
Tennessee has increased its FAFSA rates by over 20% since 2014, and FAFSA rates in Tennessee have remained strong despite the pandemic. Learn how TN FAFSA Frenzy, a strategic, data-driven campaign, has empowered students and parents to submit the FAFSA in time to remain eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship. Statewide FAFSA completion strategies, data sharing strategies, and best practices will be shared, and two school-level site coordinators from a small, rural county will describe their challenges, best practices, and strategies as well. Attendees will be provided with the forms and toolkits used in Tennessee.

Learning Objectives:
- Empower students and parents to complete the FAFSA.
- Organize and mobilize a FAFSA team at your school or organization.
- Build capacity for FAFSA completion through statewide partnerships.

Presenters:
Suzette Telli, Statewide Services Coordinator, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, GEAR UP TN
Debbie Brown, Regional Coordinator, GEAR UP TN
Micaleah Parker, Site Coordinator, Polk County High School, GEAR UP TN
Amber Grabowski, Site Coordinator, Copper Basin High School, GEAR UP TN

108. You Got Postsecondary Data! Now What?
Tenleytown East
Postsecondary enrollment is a key outcome, so it is critical that grantees obtain and use these data for clear reporting and to inform programming. During this interactive and engaging discussion, we will focus on strategies for how you can put National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data to work for your team. After reviewing the NSC StudentTracker outcome reports, participants will view and interact with different ways to visualize NSC data to communicate this critical outcome with stakeholders. The session will close with a discussion around how you can use these data to reflect and inform future GEAR UP services.

Learning Objectives:
- Use the outcome reports available through National Student Clearinghouse’s StudentTracker service to make meaning of data.
- Learn about ways to organize the data to foster your team’s understanding of students’ postsecondary pathways.
- Understand how to use data from National Student Clearinghouse’s StudentTracker to inform GEAR UP services.

Presenters:
Michele Gralak, Senior Product Manager, National Student Clearinghouse
Julie Jaramillo, Director of Evaluation and Data Insights, Xcalibur
NCCEP/GEAR UP Directors' Meeting  
*Lincoln East + Monroe*

As is customary at NCCEP events, the NCCEP team will be convening the GEAR UP leadership community to discuss issues related to our association, government relations, and national initiatives. Due to space constraints, this invitational meeting will be limited to a GEAR UP Project Director and/or Principal Investigator from each grant’s fiscal agent, and one guest of their choice.

**Wednesday | July 20**

**7:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
**Conference Registration & Information Booth Open**  
*Terrace Foyer East*

**7:30 am – 8:45 am**  
**Networking Breakfast**  
*International Ballroom*

**9:00 am – 10:30 am**  
**Wednesday Morning Plenary**  
**2022 Youth Leadership Summit Presentation**  
*International Ballroom*

The year 2019 was the last NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference during which the Youth Leadership Summit took place. Since then, our youth have tackled serious challenges that many of us did not expect to see in our lifetime.

What have our students learned? How have their priorities changed? What is it that they need us to focus on to help them become successful, thriving adults?

Join us as we welcome our young leaders back to the stage to share their voice, their passion, and their hopes for the future.

**10:45 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Wednesday Morning Concurrent Sessions**

**109. Authentic LEARNing**  
*Tenleytown West*

What type of resources are needed to prepare your students to excel in postsecondary education? In this hands-on session, participants will explore the authenticity framework and how it supports postsecondary preparation through student-centered learning. We will draw on personal experiences and prior knowledge about postsecondary preparation and the research behind the authenticity framework to analyze how the authenticity framework supports learning that fosters college and career readiness. Participants will be provided time to explore the K20 LEARN educational resource library to identify and evaluate a learning activity that provides them support in meeting their GEAR UP program goals. It is suggested that participants bring a personal device such as a laptop if possible.
Learning Objectives:
- Analyze how the authenticity framework supports learning that fosters college and career readiness.
- Identify a LEARN resource that will support your GEAR UP program goals.
- Evaluate how the resource chosen supports authenticity in college and career readiness.

Presenters:
Laura Halstied, Social Studies Curriculum Writer, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP OKC
Dewey Hulsey, Instructional Technologist, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP OKC
Mary Beth Braggs, Instructional Designer, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP OKC
Ryan Rahhal, Instructional Designer, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, GEAR UP OKC

110. Branding Bootcamp: A GEAR UP Starter Toolkit

Georgetown East
This lecture will explore the key media and branding considerations when establishing a solid foundation to build your GEAR UP brand. In this facilitated discussion, participants will be presented with media and branding examples that will guide participants to plan and conceptualize their own strong brand identity. Participants will draft ideas grounded in concepts that will enhance the foundation and promotion of their GEAR UP brand targeting their unique students’ assets and needs.

Learning Objectives:
- Learn 3 key discussion questions needed to locate key identifiers of their brand.
- Learn the key components of an effective GEAR UP Branding Guide.
- Draft a plan on how to build out their program's brand.

Presenters:
Martha Contreras, Program Coordinator, CSUF GEAR UP
Cristal Sanchez, Educational Services Coordinator, CSUF GEAR UP
Clarissa Rodriguez, Special Projects Coordinator, CSUF GEAR UP
Evelyn Lucho, Family Engagement Coordinator, CSUF GEAR UP

111. Building Relationships in 160 Characters: Lessons in College Advising Via Text

Holmead
Gen Z youth check their phones 96 times per day! Given this, nudge-based texting has skyrocketed in popularity as a strategy for supporting college-going culture. With Get Schooled’s seven years of texting experience, this session will offer insights on trust and relationship building, and the strategies for doing so. You’ll learn how we’ve successfully implemented college-going text engagement across regions and hear from youths’ perspectives and advice. Participants will engage in small group conversations to identify strategies to implement texting in their own communities. We’ll also share free partnership (and match!) opportunities for GEAR UP programs to bolster existing advising efforts.

Learning Objectives:
- Understand best practices for driving youth engagement with text-based support.
- Consider pros and cons of adopting a NLP/IA-driven chat-bot texting support platform.
- Gain insights into challenges and opportunities of conducting text-based outreach and advising with a small team.

Presenters:
Kyla Lackie, Deputy Director, Get Schooled
Eric Lopez, Senior Program Manager, Get Schooled
112. Navigating the First Year of College as a Family

Jefferson East

In this interactive session, participants will be taken through the journey of supporting the social emotional development and needs of a student as they transition to college life. Through a series of group exercises, we will unpack the financial aid package and discover campus resources that help students navigate their college experience and support academic success. We will conclude our workshop by focusing our conversation on internship, work-study, and career opportunities for students while in college and life after college graduation.

Learning Objectives:
- Understand the changes students and families go through while they transition from high school to college life.
- Become familiar with information on the financial aid award letter and with services and resources that colleges have to offer students and their families.
- Demonstrate knowledge of career opportunities and life after college.

Presenters:
Mildred Gains, Director of National Partnerships, Parent Institute for Quality Education
Nadia Hernandez, Senior Program Associate, Parent Institute for Quality Education

113. Open Lab: Mapping What’s Next

International Terrace

After three days of sharing and learning new ideas, come make your plan to turn “one day” into “day one”. We’ll start by reminding ourselves of why we do our work, followed by a reflection on what we’ve learned at the conference. Finally, we’ll map out our goals to put our learning into action after we’ve returned home. All roles and experience levels welcome! Open Labs are an opportunity for networking and informal conversations within the GEAR UP community.

Learning Objectives:
- Network and connect with others in the GEAR UP community.
- Reflect on why you do this work and what you’ve learned at the conference.
- Share your goals of how to put this into action.

Presenters:
Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, NCCEP
Dana Beck, Director of Practice, NCCEP
Kelly Pappas, Director of Career & College Clubs, NCCEP

114. Overcoming the Challenges of Unfinished Learning using Online Tutoring and Academic Support

Cabinet

This presentation is important to GEAR UP Programs because unfinished learning during the pandemic affected underserved communities at a much higher rate. Studies have found that the impact of the pandemic on K–12 student learning was significant, leaving students on average five months behind in mathematics and four months behind in reading by the end of the school year. The pandemic widened preexisting opportunity and achievement gaps, hitting historically disadvantaged students hardest.

GEAR UP programs struggle to manage the logistics of delivering academic tutoring to students that need critical help. Across the country, GEAR UP programs have turned to The Princeton Review with Tutor.com to overcome all of these challenges. The presentation is relevant to NCCEP’s national strategy because a Tutor.com partnership equips GEAR UP professionals with a necessary service to maximize their programmatic impact. Learn how our more than 4,000 tutors can provide 24/7 tutoring and support.
Learning Objectives:
- Identify and explore strategies to effectively address the most challenging issues pertaining to academic tutoring and support.
- Learn about implementing an exceptional academic tutoring service that can be accessible by all GEAR UP students 24/7, 361 days per year in English or Spanish.
- Explore how to maximize a program's impact by using data to make informed decisions around resource allocation.

Presenters:
Ed Ceja, Area Vice President, The Princeton Review & Tutor.com
Dan Howarth, Executive Director Educational Partnerships, The Princeton Review / Tutor.com

115. Solving the Math Conundrum: How to Develop Students’ Skills While Expanding Their Metacognition
Tenleytown East
Robust mathematics instruction begins with integration of the 8 standards for mathematical practice. But weaving together the practices with content skills is a complex process. This session is designed to provide the context, strategies, and examples teachers need to implement robust math instruction for all students. These resources provide models of what it looks like and sounds like when students are utilizing the practices, along with detailed views of how each practice integrates with specific mathematics content and the tools to do it. Participants will learn how to develop students’ mathematical metacognition by integrating the skills and the practices.

Learning Objectives:
- Examine and utilize instructional strategies that integrate mathematical practices and skills with equal focus, coherence, and rigor for all students.
- Analyze and apply the learning process, examples, and tools for developing metacognition with each mathematical practice.
- Create an action plan that ensures all students receive instruction that fosters their mathematics knowledge and metacognition.

Presenters:
Robert Crowe, Administrator Coach, Elevated Achievement Group
Marilyn Saucedo, Instructional Coach, Elevated Achievement Group

116. Supporting Youth of Color: A Call for Transformative Critical Dialogue Programs
Jefferson West
Diversity and inclusion are common goals for educational programs, yet students of color still lack adequate support to navigate the injustice and inequity they face in schools and communities. Considering the burdens of COVID-19, there is an urgent need to address the complexities of race, culture, ethnicity, and other intersectional identities that impact students. Learn how to practice and apply a critical dialogue program supporting the holistic well-being of students of color through community building, equity, and identity activities. Join us to build equity-based facilitation skills and leave with a toolkit for creating transformative dialogue programs.

Learning Objectives:
- Demonstrate knowledge of key steps from a toolkit for implementing a Supporting Youth of Color (SYC) program.
- Identify and discuss the strategies to effectively address social justice and educational equity topics with youth of color.
- Experience an interactive activity to learn the essential elements of critical dialogue in supporting students of color.
Presenters:
Jaiyenan English, Supporting Youth of Color Coordinator, Neighborhood Partnership Program, GEAR UP 4 LA
Jaya Duckworth, Supporting Youth of Color Coordinator, Neighborhood Partnership Program, GEAR UP 4 LA

117. Using Student Engagement Data to Make Informed Site-Based Decisions
Georgetown West
Research shows numerous positive correlations between academic achievement and student engagement when using strategies targeting engagement. The K20 Center uses an instrument (https://kissce.k20center.ou.edu/) built from this research to facilitate reflective, data-driven action research to increase student engagement in their partner schools. This session focuses on foundational knowledge and strategies that promote student engagement in schools. Participants will explore the four aspects of student engagement: affective, behavioral, cognitive, and emotional with the primary objective of summarizing and analyzing how those four aspects can inform interventions that will improve student engagement.

Learning Objectives:
- Summarize the aspects of student engagement.
- Analyze quantitative student engagement survey data.
- Generate strategies for Action Plans that improve student engagement.

Presenters:
Shelby Blackwood, Professional Development Specialist, K20 Center – GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS
Shayna Pond, Adult Learning Designer, K20 Center – GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS
Daniel Schwarz, Instructional Designer, K20 Center – GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS
Patricia McDaniels-Gomez, Professional Development Coordinator, K20 Center - GEAR UP O+K=C

118. Walking Each Other Home: The Power of Relationships in Education
Kalorama
Authentic engagement with students is often difficult to achieve in the fast-paced educational environment. In this presentation, we will discuss the power of building relationships with students based on their interests and skills and explain how one project allowed educators to step into the lives of their students in a new way.

Learning Objectives:
- Understand a specific technique for building relationships with your students.
- Identify one way that this project could be tailored to your schools.
- Create a plan for sharing your information with students.

Presenters:
Adam Adkins, College and Career Navigator, GEAR UP East KY
Robbie Osborne, GEAR Up Program Manager, GEAR UP East KY

119. State GEAR UP Directors’ Meeting
Lincoln West
This peer-to-peer meeting is entirely led and organized by GEAR UP State Directors. Due to space constraints, this meeting will be limited to only a GEAR UP Project Director and/or Principal Investigator from each grant’s fiscal agent (no guests).
**120. Partnership GEAR UP Directors' Meeting**  
*Lincoln East + Monroe*

This peer-to-peer meeting is entirely led and organized by GEAR UP Partnership Directors. Due to space constraints, this meeting will be limited to only a GEAR UP Project Director and/or Principal Investigator from each grant’s fiscal agent (no guests).

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm  
**Closing Lunch and Adjournment**
NCCEP/GEAR UP
Annual Conference

July 17-20, 2022